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MEGHALAYA | NEED 24 NEWS · Every Story, Every City | 16 November 2026

AGRICULTURE

Meghalaya villages move towards restoration and new livelihoods after coal mining



Several villages in Meghalaya are taking steps to recover from the environmental and economic impacts of coal mining. Recognizing the need for sustainable practices, these communities are actively participating in land restoration projects. They aim to reclaim damaged land and promote biodiversity. Alongside restoration efforts, rural residents are exploring alternative livelihoods to reduce dependence on coal mining. This includes initiatives in agriculture, tourism, and handicrafts.

AGRICULTURE

Orchid Cultivation Opens New Livelihood Avenues in Meghalaya



A growing number of farmers in Meghalaya are adopting orchid cultivation as a profitable alternative to traditional crops. The state's humid climate and abundant rainfall make it suitable for growing orchid species, which fetch high prices in both domestic and international markets. The local agriculture department and non-governmental organizations are providing training programs and seedling support. This shift is expected to diversify rural income, reduce migration, and boost the local economy.

RELIGION

Wangla Golden Jubilee Kick-Off in Meghalaya with 1,000 Drums



Meghalaya marked the beginning of the Golden Jubilee of the traditional harvest festival Wangla, celebrated by the Garo tribe, with a grand performance featuring 1,000 drums. The event, held at the state's cultural center, highlighted the sonic tradition of Wangla. Wangla has completed a half-century journey, and this milestone was celebrated with the convergence of 1,000 drums, symbolizing the tribe's unity and gratitude for a bountiful harvest.

State officials and tribal leaders participated in the inauguration ceremony, emphasizing the cultural significance of the festival. The jubilee program, which will last several days, features traditional dances, folk music, and cultural fairs, expected to boost tourism in the region.

Local traders have expressed hope for a growing number of visitors, while cultural scholars believe that such a grand celebration could help gain national recognition for other tribal festivals as well.

EDUCATION

Teachers in Meghalaya Launch Indefinite Strike



Teachers in Meghalaya have gone on an indefinite strike demanding the government fulfill its promises to eliminate the long-standing shortage of teachers in state schools. They argue that the government's recently sent letter, which offers a solution, merely repeats old proposals and offers no concrete action. The strike is expected to affect education across the state, impacting thousands of students.

LOCAL

50th Wangala Festival fulfills vision of P.A. Sangma



The 50th Wangala Festival, a major cultural event in Meghalaya, was organized to honor the region's agricultural traditions. Organizers stated that the festival reflected the vision set by former Chief Minister P.A. Sangma, who had advocated for showcasing the heritage of the festival on a larger scale. Participants from across the state performed traditional dances, music, and community rituals, underscoring the significance of the festival.

JOBS & CAREER

Meghalaya's first AI job fair held in Shillong, offering 125 jobs

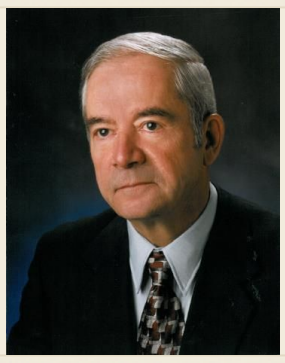


Meghalaya's first artificial intelligence (AI)-focused job fair will be held in the state capital, Shillong. The event will offer 125 job opportunities, including roles in technology, data analytics, software development, and related support positions. Organizers aim to connect local talent with employers requiring AI skills, facilitating the integration of advanced technology into the regional economy. The fair is scheduled for the end of this month and will be open to job seekers from across the state and neighboring regions. Participants can expect on-site interviews, resume assistance, and workshops on AI trends and skill development. Industry representatives have highlighted the growing demand for AI expertise in sectors such as education, healthcare, and tourism.

Authorities consider this initiative a milestone in Meghalaya's digital transformation plan, hoping that the recruitment drive will encourage skill development and retain skilled professionals within the state. Additional programs are being considered to further strengthen the AI job market in the future.

VIRAL & TRENDING

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma's young companion dubbed 'Adorable Pro Max,' goes viral



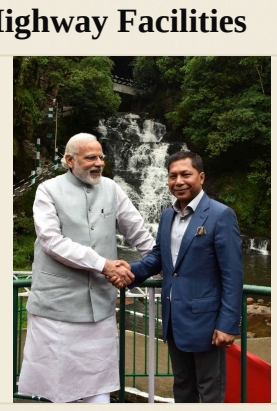
A recent photo of Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma with a young companion has gone viral on social media. The picture, widely shared on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, shows the child standing next to the Chief Minister. Netizens quickly dubbed the child "Adorable Pro Max" and praised his cute appearance. The post, originally published by local news sources, has spawned numerous comments and memes highlighting the contrast between the senior politician's formal image and the child's playful presence. The exact identity or age of the young companion was not mentioned, but the scene highlights the human side of leaders.

The Chief Minister's office has not yet issued an official comment on the viral photo. Nevertheless, the incident demonstrates how quickly political images can become internet trends, especially when they involve unexpected, lighthearted moments.

Currently, the story is limited to online discussion, with no further developments reported regarding the viral impact. Experts believe such viral moments can influence public perception, making leaders appear more approachable and relatable.

SARKARI YOJANA

Meghalaya CM Launches Tourism Asset Upgradation Plan, Allocates Rs 20 Crore for Highway Facilities



The Chief Minister of Meghalaya has announced a Tourism Asset Upgradation Plan aimed at enhancing the appeal of the state's hospitality sector. Under the scheme, financial assistance will be provided to owners of hotels, homestays, and other tourism-related properties to facilitate the installation of modern amenities.

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Additionally, the government has released Rs 20 crore for the improvement of highway facilities, which will be used for the construction of rest stops, signboards, and sanitation facilities. This step has been taken to improve the traveler experience and promote local job creation.

Officials stated that the plan will be implemented in phases, with priority given to areas with the highest tourist footfall. Regular audits and feedback from stakeholders will be conducted to monitor progress.

Emphasizing the importance of tourism to Meghalaya's economy, the Chief Minister pledged continued support for the development of the sector.

EDUCATION

Teachers in Meghalaya Reject Departmental Letter and Continue Indefinite Strike



Earlier this month, teachers in Meghalaya rejected the revised letter sent by the education department. The letter was issued after prior negotiations, which the teachers deemed inadequate.

In response, the teachers decided to keep the strike indefinite, stating that their main demands had not yet been met. The strike will affect the normal operation of schools across the state.

The education department has yet to issue a statement clarifying its position on the teachers' decision. The situation remains fluid, and both parties await further developments.

Microsoft Restores Services After Hours-Long Global Outage



Microsoft confirmed that all of its services have been fully restored following an hours-long global outage that disrupted access to its platforms worldwide.

The outage, which began earlier in the day, affected a range of Microsoft services, causing widespread inconvenience for users and businesses relying on the company's cloud and productivity tools.

In a statement, Microsoft said the issue has been resolved and all services are now operational. The company apologized for the disruption and assured customers that it was working to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Microsoft has not yet provided detailed reasons for the outage, but it acknowledged the impact on users across multiple regions.

FOOD

Pineapple Eatery Fest 2026 to be held in Umeiam, Meghalaya, on Nov 23-24



Shillong Today reported that the Pineapple Eatery Fest 2026 will be held in Umeiam, Meghalaya, on November 23 and 24. The two-day event will bring together food vendors and culinary enthusiasts to celebrate pineapple-based dishes and regional cuisine.

Umeiam, known for its scenic lake and proximity to Shillong, is expected to attract both locals and tourists this weekend. Organizers have described the festival as an opportunity to promote Meghalaya's food culture and encourage seasonal tourism.

Detailed information about the schedule is currently limited, but officials believe the event will feature stalls, live cooking demonstrations, and an entertaining atmosphere, establishing the region as a prominent culinary destination.

Fire breaks out at Shillong Literary Festival, destroying four food stalls and halting live music event



A fire broke out at the Shillong Literary Festival venue on Thursday evening, destroying four food stalls and forcing the cancellation of a live music performance. The fire is believed to have started in the kitchen area of one of the stalls and spread rapidly due to the density of the stalls and stage equipment. Organizers and local police arrived at the scene and extinguished the fire within an hour, saving the main stage and other stalls from damage. Following the incident, organizers have announced a review of security protocols and pledged to work with fire officials to prevent similar accidents in the future.

LOCAL

Williamnagar wins Meghalaya's top cleanliness award



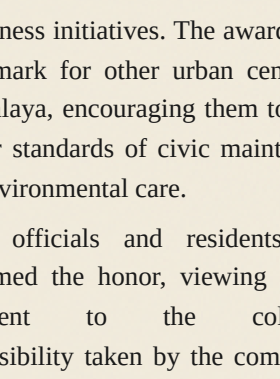
Williamnagar has emerged as the cleanest city in the northeastern state of Meghalaya. The city was awarded the state's top cleanliness prize, highlighting its sustained efforts in urban sanitation and waste management.

This recognition places Williamnagar at the forefront of the state's cleanliness initiatives. The award sets a benchmark for other urban centers in Meghalaya, encouraging them to adopt similar standards of civic maintenance and environmental care.

Local officials and residents have welcomed the honor, viewing it as a testament to the collective responsibility taken by the community to maintain cleanliness and a healthy environment. This achievement strengthens the city's reputation as a model for urban sanitation in the region.

AGRICULTURE

Meghalaya's Garo Hills Boost Vermicompost Production Using Agricultural Waste



In Meghalaya's Garo Hills, farmers are turning agricultural waste into vermicompost, a process that has led to a surge in production. The initiative utilizes locally available crop residues, transforming them into nutrient-rich compost through the activity of earthworms.

organized training sessions to teach farmers the techniques of vermicomposting, ensuring that the waste is processed efficiently and safely. The increased output of vermicompost is expected to provide a sustainable fertilizer option for the region's farms.

By converting waste into a valuable resource, the Garo Hills community is addressing both environmental concerns and the need for affordable, organic soil amendments. The growing demand for vermicompost is encouraging more farmers to adopt the practice, fostering a circular economy within the district.

BUSINESS

IHCL to develop 140-room Taj resort in Meghalaya



Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), the parent of the Taj brand, announced that it has signed a contract to construct a new Taj resort in Meghalaya. The project will feature 140 guest rooms, positioning the brand in a state that has seen growing interest from tourists seeking hill-station experiences.

The resort is expected to boost the local hospitality sector by creating employment opportunities and attracting high-end travelers to the region. IHCL officials indicated that the development aligns with the company's strategy to expand its footprint in emerging tourism destinations across India.

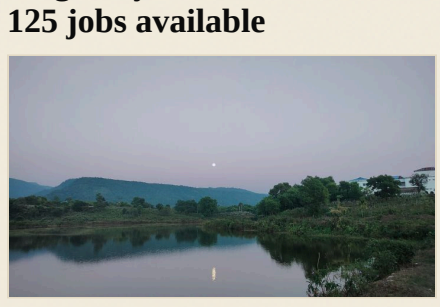
Construction is slated to begin later this year, with the hotel projected to open within the next few years, subject to regulatory approvals and completion of infrastructure work.

Local authorities have welcomed the investment, citing potential benefits for the state's economy and its efforts to promote sustainable tourism in the ecologically sensitive northeast.

The move follows a broader trend of major hotel chains entering tier-2 and tier-3 markets, aiming to capture demand from both domestic and international visitors.

JOBS & CAREER

First AI job fair in Meghalaya on Nov 17, with 125 jobs available



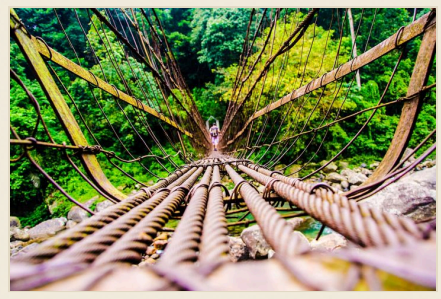
The first AI job fair will be held in Meghalaya on November 17, according to local authorities. The event aims to connect job-seeking candidates with employers in the AI and related technology sectors.

A total of 125 job opportunities will be showcased, ranging from entry-level to specialized technical positions. Detailed information about the participating companies has not yet been released.

meeting the growing demand for AI talent in the state and providing opportunities to local job seekers in a nationally expanding field. Interested candidates can await details on the registration process and venue through official channels.

POLITICS

Meghalaya Ropeway Meeting Turns Chaotic, Minister Blames Political Motive



A gathering convened to discuss a ropeway project in the northeastern state of Meghalaya descended into chaos when protesters disrupted the proceedings. The disturbance halted the agenda and created a tense atmosphere among officials and attendees.

State officials reported that the protest turned violent, with participants shouting slogans and attempting to block the discussion. Security personnel were deployed to restore order, but the meeting could not resume as planned.

Following the incident, a senior minister publicly asserted that the unrest was not a spontaneous public grievance but was orchestrated by political actors seeking to exploit the issue. The minister called for a thorough investigation to identify those behind the agitation.

The ministry has announced that the ropeway project will be reviewed after the situation stabilises, emphasizing the importance of the infrastructure for tourism and connectivity in the region.

No further details on the number of participants or any injuries were released at the time of reporting.

DEFENCE

Assam Rifles Commanders Assess Northeast Security in Silchar



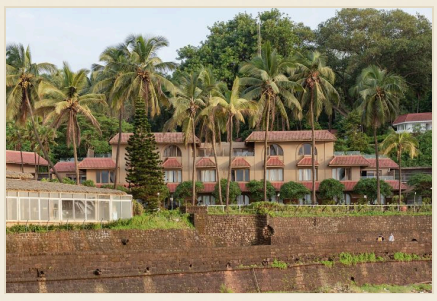
Senior commanders of the Assam Rifles convened in Silchar for a comprehensive review of the security situation in the Northeast. The meeting assessed current threats and coordinated operational readiness in the region. Participants examined recent developments and deliberated on strategies to maintain stability. The review underscored the force's ongoing commitment to safeguarding the strategic interests of the Northeast.

The meeting in Meghalaya's capital highlighted the importance of inter-state cooperation and information sharing among security agencies. While specific outcomes were not disclosed publicly, the commanders emphasized the need for vigilance and rapid response capability.

routine yet essential, given the region's complex terrain and diverse security challenges. As a key paramilitary force, the Assam Rifles plays a pivotal role in counter-insurgency and border management.

BUSINESS

IHCL Signs Deal to Develop Taj Resort in Barapani, Meghalaya



Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), the parent company of Taj Hotels, announced that it has signed a contract to develop a new Taj resort in Barapani, Meghalaya. The project is expected to bring luxury hospitality options to the region.

The resort will be situated on the banks of the Barapani River, offering panoramic views of the surrounding hills. It is part of IHCL's strategy to expand its presence in the Northeast, where tourism demand is rapidly rising.

While the opening date has not yet been set, the company said construction will begin in the coming months and the investment is estimated to be in the tens of crores of rupees. Local authorities have supported the project, anticipating job creation and increased tourism.

The move follows other Taj expansions in India, such as new properties in Goa and Rajasthan. Industry analysts view the Barapani resort as a significant step in positioning Taj as a premier destination for eco-tourism and cultural experiences.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Inaugurates Sixth Edition of Silchar Literary Festival



On Thursday, the Chief Minister of Meghalaya inaugurated the sixth edition of the Silchar Literary Festival in the state's main auditorium.

The festival, which has become a premier platform for writers, poets, and thinkers from the Northeast, runs for a week and features talks, panel discussions, and book launches.

Renowned authors and literary critics will discuss contemporary Indian literature, regional storytelling, and other topics, with special sessions for young writers.

The Chief Minister praised the festival's role in promoting literacy and cultural exchange, expressing hope that it will continue to inspire future writers of the state.

VIRAL & TRENDING

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sagma Shares Heartwarming Stage Moment with His Son



During a public event in Meghalaya, Chief Minister Conrad Sagma was captured on stage hugging his son, creating a heart-warming clip that spread rapidly online. showcased the leader's personal side and resonated with viewers across the country. Social media users praised the affection, posting comments and memes that highlighted the bond between Sagma and his child.

The viral clip adds a human touch to Sagma's political image, reminding audiences of the family values that underpin his governance.

BUSINESS

Conference on Investment and Public Finance in Meghalaya



Meghalaya announced it will host a conference to discuss investment opportunities, public finance management, and the changing role of cost accountants. The event will bring together government officials, financial experts, and industry leaders to discuss strategies for boosting investment flows and improving financial efficiency. By focusing on cost accounting, the conference aims to highlight the importance of accurate cost management in both public projects and private enterprises.

Meghalaya Allocates 2 Crore Rupees to Improve Roadside Tourism Facilities



The Meghalaya government announced today that it will provide a grant of 2 crore rupees to upgrade roadside tourism facilities across the state. The funds will be used to establish rest stops, improved signage, waste disposal facilities, and clean water points along major tourist routes.

This initiative is part of the state's broader effort to make travel more comfortable for visitors and encourage longer stays. By improving infrastructure, Meghalaya aims to attract more domestic tourists and benefit local businesses.

Tourism officials said the project will be implemented in phases, prioritising high-traffic routes such as the Shillong–Jowai and Tura–Mophlang roads. They also noted that the upgrades will create employment opportunities for local contractors and artisans.

The allocation follows earlier investments in viewpoints and cultural sites, underscoring Meghalaya's commitment to establishing itself as a premier eco-tourism destination in Northeast India.

Shillong Teer Draw Results Released for 12 November 2026



The Meghalaya State Lottery Office announced the winning numbers for the Shillong Teer draw conducted on 12 November 2026. The results were released earlier that day and are now posted on the News18 website for public viewing.

Participants are advised to cross-check their tickets against the published numbers and claim any prizes within the deadline set by the lottery office. The Shillong Teer is a popular state-run lottery that draws thousands of entries each week, offering prizes ranging from modest sums to larger jackpots.

The lottery office has urged players to verify their tickets promptly and to contact the office for any queries regarding prize claims. For further details, winners can visit the official Meghalaya State Lottery website or reach out to the office directly.