

RISING NORTH EAST INVESTORS SUMMIT 2025 – ECONOMY

NEWS: The Prime Minister inaugurated the **Rising North East Investors Summit 2025**.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Strategic Objective

- **Goal:** To project the North East Region (NER) as a **vibrant investment destination** with immense untapped potential.
- **Target Audience:** Domestic and global investors, entrepreneurs, infrastructure developers, and policy stakeholders.

Vision for the North East

- The region is transitioning from being a **frontier zone** to becoming a **front-runner of national growth**.
- It is envisioned as a **crucial pillar in achieving a Developed India**, particularly under the framework of inclusive and sustainable development.
- The development model is encapsulated by the acronym “EAST”:
 - **E – Empower** local communities and governance structures
 - **A – Act** on infrastructure and economic development
 - **S – Strengthen** connectivity, social capital, and security
 - **T – Transform** the region into a national and global growth hub

Key Focus Sectors for Investment

- **Tourism & Hospitality:** High potential for eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and cultural tourism.
- **Agro-Food Processing:** Rich agricultural base and organic farming support value chain development.
- **Textiles, Handlooms & Handicrafts:** Unique designs and ethnic crafts suitable for national and international markets.
- **Healthcare and Education:** Investment opportunities in medical services, medical tourism, and skill development institutions.
- **Information Technology (IT) & IT-Enabled Services (ITES):** Suitable for digital infrastructure expansion and BPOs.
- **Infrastructure & Logistics:** Demand for roads, bridges, airports, railways, and logistic hubs.
- **Energy (Hydropower, Solar, Biomass):** Untapped clean energy sources and a bio-economy based on bamboo and forest products.
- **Entertainment & Sports:** Traditional sports and scenic locations attract events and filming opportunities.



Sectoral Opportunities Highlighted

- **Semiconductors & Energy:** Scope for clean and renewable energy clusters, including hydropower and solar parks.
- **Eco-tourism & Bamboo Economy:** Abundant bamboo reserves and forest cover make the region ideal for bio-economy initiatives.
- **Tea & Petroleum Industries:** Long-standing strengths, especially in Assam, offer opportunities for modernization and export enhancement.
- **Skill Development:** Large youth population can be trained and employed in various growth sectors.
- **Sports Infrastructure:** Natural terrain and sports talent base make it suitable for adventure sports, training academies, and events.

Tourism Potential

- The NER is a **complete tourism package** with unmatched natural beauty, cultural richness, and serenity.
- Suitable for:
 - **Global conferences and summits**
 - **Destination weddings**
 - **Film festivals and music concerts**
- Promotes **wellness, heritage, eco, and adventure tourism**, positioning it as an international tourism hotspot.

Infrastructure Development Initiatives

- The government has committed **thousands of crores of rupees** for infrastructure improvement:
 - **Sela Tunnel (Arunachal Pradesh):** All-weather connectivity to the India-China border.
 - **Bhupen Hazarika Bridge (Assam):** India's longest river bridge over the Brahmaputra.
 - **11,000 km of new highways** constructed to boost regional access.
 - **Railway expansion** including electrification and new lines.
 - **Airport modernization** to improve air connectivity across all state capitals.
 - **Waterways on Brahmaputra and Barak rivers** for cost-effective cargo movement.
 - **1,600 km North-East Gas Grid** to strengthen energy distribution.
 - **Mobile connectivity expansion** through installation of hundreds of towers to bridge the digital divide.

Geographic and Cultural Context

- Comprises **eight states**: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.
- **Geographical Share:** Covers 7.97% of India's area and houses 3.78% of the national population.
- **Cultural Diversity:** Over **200 ethnic groups** with distinct languages and traditions, offering rich cultural capital.
- **International Borders (5,484 km):**
 - Bangladesh – 1,880 km
 - Myanmar – 1,643 km
 - China – 1,346 km
 - Bhutan – 516 km
 - Nepal – 99 km

Significance of the Region

a. Geostrategic Importance:

- Serves as **India's gateway to Southeast Asia** through the Act East Policy.
- Strategic for **defense preparedness**, especially in light of border tensions with China.
- Enhances India's role in the **Indo-Pacific and ASEAN connectivity frameworks**.

b. Economic and Trade Potential:

- Hosts major cross-border trade corridors like:

- **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Project**
- **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway**

- Rich in **natural resources**, biodiversity, and suitable climate for diverse industries.

c. Cultural Soft Power:

- Rich heritage in **dance, music, crafts, and festivals** fosters cultural diplomacy.
- Can be leveraged for **nation branding** and global outreach through cultural exchange.

Key Challenges Faced by the Region

- **Connectivity Deficits:** Hilly terrain and remote locations hinder large-scale infrastructure growth.
- **Digital Divide:** Mobile and internet coverage is improving but still below national averages.
- **Security Concerns:** Past issues of militancy, ethnic insurgency, and smuggling persist, although improved in recent years.
- **Environmental Constraints:** Development projects face challenges due to ecological fragility and difficult topography.
- **Ethnic and Migration Tensions:** Inter-community disputes and cross-border immigration complicate governance and social cohesion.

Way Forward

- The region's strategic relevance has grown due to:
 - **India's Act East Policy**
 - **Increasing Indo-Pacific engagements**
- To realize full potential:
 - **Capacity-building** in transport, infrastructure, and governance is essential.
 - **Border trade and connectivity** need sustained investments and international collaboration.
 - Efforts must be made to **balance economic growth with environmental and cultural preservation**.
- The ultimate goal is to **transform the North East into a dynamic growth pole** and a **regional connectivity hub** for India and its extended neighborhood.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2130702>