

Loan brings succor to Assam tea



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Guwahati: A fresh lease of life awaits Assam's tea industry. Altogether 24 companies have come out to revive the ailing sector with a huge Rs 48 crore loan money. These companies will devote the fund, named as the Special Tea Purpose Fund, in the replantation of bushes in 82 tea estates covering 1,925 hectares. The Assam tea Company is among those who are a part of this pact. The ATC will carry out replantation in its 12 estates. In his address, Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi says the revival of tea industry will be a giant leap towards addressing a few problems confronting the state. The function was addressed by the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission. Speaking on the occasion, minister of development of North-east, Mani Shankar Aiyar says the steps for rejuvenation of tea industry will percolate benefit not only to Assam's economic growth but also for the people of the entire north eastern region. Later speaking to reporters, commerce minister HJairam Ramesh pins hope on the fact that the STPF will help the Indian tea companies to compete with Kenya and Sri Lanka in production. In yet another bid to ensure the benefits of the government incentive for the small tea growers, the minister said that he has urged the Assam Chief Minister to provide them with possession certificate to make the entire process a hassle-free one.

editor

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