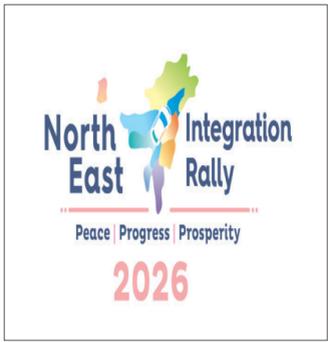




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PERSPECTIVE

You can “rewire” your brain to be happy by simply recalling 3 things you’re grateful for every day for 21 days.

Tripura to explore Titas River water for Agartala: Manik Saha

AGARTALA
Tripura Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Manik Saha on August 29 announced plans to explore the use of water from Bangladesh’s Titas River to supply clean, iron-free drinking water to all 51 wards of the Agartala Municipal Corporation.

The announcement came during the inauguration of the Vivekananda Township Project at Kaman Chowmuhani, where Dr. Saha underlined his government’s focus on sustainable urban development and modern infrastructure.

“We are dedicated to development, and our initiatives speak for themselves. From January to August alone, we have inaugurated and laid the foundation for projects worth Rs 800 crore. This is the vision of a BJP-led government—progress and transparency,” he said. The Chief Minister credited the Tripura Urban Development Authority (TUDA) for playing a crucial role in constructing modern flats for economically weaker and middle-class families. He said that 216 flats worth Rs 96 crore are under construction near Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel and will be completed by March next year. High-rise buildings, he added, are being permitted under strict regulatory norms.

On financial hurdles, Dr. Saha said he had urged the Centre to lift the cap on loan amounts for externally aided projects, pointing out that such restrictions are not imposed on other states.

WHO SAID WHAT



“I urge all of you. Come, Make in India, Make for the World. The success stories of Suzuki and Daikin can become your success stories too”

~ Narendra Modi, PM

Assam cannot be led by people who visit Pakistan: Amit Shah

Even with binoculars, you won’t spot Congress in Assam polls: Amit Shah



GUWAHATI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 29 said Assam cannot

be led by leaders who make frequent visits to Pakistan, in an apparent reference to state Congress president Gaurav Gogoi. Addressing the NDA Panchayat Pratinidhi Sammelan in Guwahati, Shah said the BJP-led alliance will return to power in Assam for a third consecutive term on the strength of development works initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and carried forward by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

“Assam cannot be represented by people who sympathise with infiltrators and encroachers. Assam cannot be led by people who visit Pakistan frequently,” Shah remarked, sharpening his attack on Gogoi. The Assam CM and the BJP have repeatedly targeted the Congress leader over his wife Elizabeth Colburn’s alleged links with Pakistan, with Sarma earlier claiming that she had travelled 19 times between India and Pakistan.

Shah said the BJP government has taken decisive steps against infiltrators and encroachers, freeing over 1.29 lakh acres of land and restoring the sanctity of

Vaishnavite monasteries founded by Srimanta Sankardeva and Madhavdeva. He also alleged that infiltrators were marrying local women to gain legitimacy, but the state government had launched special operations to stop such practices. Blowing the poll bugle ahead of the Assembly elections due in March-April next year, Shah claimed the Congress had been reduced to irrelevance at the grassroots level. “If you want to find Congress in Assam panchayats, you will not find them even with binoculars,” he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 29 took a sharp dig at the Congress over its performance in the recent Assam Panchayat elections, claiming that the party has been “wiped out” from the state’s grassroots political landscape.

Addressing at the NDA Panchayat Pratinidhi Sammelan in Assam, Shah said the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies had secured a resound-

ing victory in the Panchayat polls, while the Congress failed to make its presence felt.

“When the Assam Panchayat election results came, Congress was wiped out. Even if you use binoculars, you won’t be able to find Congress (in the elections). Such is the victory achieved by you all here,” Shah remarked, drawing loud applause from the gathering. The Home Minister asserted that the results were a reflection of the people’s trust in the leadership of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and the development initiatives undertaken by the BJP government in Assam. He said the mandate clearly indicated that the Congress, once a dominant force in the state, had lost ground at the grassroots level.

Shah’s comments come at a time when the BJP is consolidating its position in Assam ahead of future electoral battles, projecting the Panchayat results as an endorsement of its governance model.

Assam’s rice, bamboo, ginger, and turmeric set for global push under new pact, MoU signed



GUWAHATI

In a significant step towards strengthening Assam’s cooperative movement and expanding the global footprint of its farm produce, the Assam State Cooperative Federation (ASCOF) and the National Cooperative Exports Ltd (NCEL) on Thursday, August 28 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

According to an official release, the agreement aims to create a robust ecosystem that will channel Assam’s unique agricultural and allied products to international markets, thereby opening new opportunities for farmers, cooperatives, and other stakeholders.

The collaboration will highlight Assam’s distinctive varieties of rice, edible bamboo, ginger, and turmeric—products acclaimed for their qual-

ity and uniqueness—enabling them to achieve greater visibility and acceptance in global markets.

The MoU outlines structured marketing strategies, brand-building initiatives, and streamlined export processes that are expected to boost Assam’s agri-export potential while positioning cooperatives as credible contributors to India’s export economy.

A major feature of the initiative is its focus on empowering grassroots institutions. Export-oriented cooperatives, Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) will be brought under the fold to ensure that farmers are not treated as mere laborers, but as shareholders and owners in the export value chain.

This participatory model is intended to enhance farmer incomes, create sustainable livelihoods, and promote inclusive growth in rural economies.

The agreement also embodies the principle of “cooperation among cooperatives,” where institutions at various levels work in synergy to achieve common objectives. It aligns closely with the Ministry of Cooperation’s vision of ‘Sahakar se Samridhhi’ and supports the larger national goal of ‘Viksit Bharat 2047’ by promoting value addition, empowering rural communities, and enhancing India’s role in international trade.

Jairam Ramesh slams PM Modi’s Japan and China visits, says Manipur neglected

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his ongoing visit to Japan and upcoming trip to China, accusing him of neglecting the violence-affected northeastern state of Manipur.

In a social media post on X, Ramesh stated that while the Prime Minister travels abroad, the people of Manipur “still await his visit to heal their wounds,” which he said Modi has “simply and stubbornly refused.”

Ramesh also criticized India’s approach toward China, alleging that the country is being “forced to normalize relations with China largely on their terms.”

He referred to past military concerns, including China’s coordination with Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, and highlighted statements by PM Modi in 2020 that, according to Ramesh, weakened India’s negotiating position.

“The Frequently Flying (and more frequently lying) Prime Minister is off to Japan and China. His visit to China is a moment of reckoning for India,” Ramesh wrote. “Even



as the PM jets off abroad, the long-suffering people of Manipur are still awaiting his engagement. He has simply washed his hands off Manipur—a tragic testimony to the blundering of the Union Home Minister.”

PM Modi is currently in Japan, marking his first stand-alone visit to the country in nearly seven years. The visit aims to strengthen bilateral

ties and advance the Special Strategic and Global Partnership with Japan.

Following Japan, the Prime Minister will travel to China from August 31 to September 1 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Tianjin, where he will hold bilateral meetings with Chinese Premier Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

‘Ghost SIM’ Scam Exposed in Silchar, CBI Nabs Key Suspects

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested an Airtel territory sales manager (TSM) from Silchar, Assam, for allegedly facilitating the unauthorised sale of SIM cards later used in cybercrimes, including digital arrest scams, officials said on Thursday.

The agency conducted raids at five locations in Cachar district on Wednesday, leading to the arrest of TSM Debashish Doley along with two alleged middlemen, Mahim Uddin Barbhuiya and Ashim Purkayastha.

According to investigators, Doley colluded with the middlemen to issue SIM cards without the knowledge of the individuals in whose names they were registered. These “ghost SIM cards” were then misused by cyber-criminals.

In May this year, the CBI had booked 39 point-of-sale (POS) operators for selling 1,100 such SIM cards to cybercrime networks operating from Southeast Asian countries and targeting Indian citizens.



Airtel has not yet responded to queries regarding the arrest.

“GHOST SIM CARD”, when a customer seeks a SIM, the point-of-sale person gets an e-KYC done and issues a SIM. Scammers lie to the customers that their e-KYC had failed and they should try again.

According to the modus operandi adopted to sell a “ghost SIM card”, when a customer seeks a SIM, the point-of-sale person gets an e-KYC done and issues a SIM. Scammers lie to the customers that their e-KYC had failed and they should try again.

The SIM generated for the first time was handed over to the customer while the second one—the “ghost SIM”—was sold to cybercriminals without the genuine customers knowing that a SIM generated in their name was being used by scammers, the officials said.

These “ghost SIM cards” were then used not only to deceive the victims, but also to create mule bank accounts to receive the money, which were later closed to avoid detection or revelation of the money trail, they said.

“These sales were done by violating the laid-down guidelines and procedures. These SIM cards were sold illegally in bulk to various middlemen at high cost, and later these cards were used in commission of various cyber crimes,” a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. Aimed at curbing the sale and misuse of unauthorised SIM cards being sold through distributors/PoS agents, the CBI crackdown resulted in seizure of incriminating evidences like mobile phones, electronic devices and copies of KYC documents, etc., she said. “This action underscores the Government of India’s resolute commitment in combating cyber crimes and in bringing its perpetrators to face the law and also special focus in dismantling the infra-structure which facilitates such crimes,” the spokesperson said.

Four northeast capitals among safest cities for women: NARI 2025



NEW DELHI

The NARI 2025 report on women’s safety revealed that 40% of urban women across India feel “not so safe” or “unsafe,” with safety concerns increasing at night due to poor lighting and insufficient security.

While Ranchi, Srinagar, Kolkata, Delhi, Faridabad, Patna, and Jaipur ranked among the least safe cities, northeast cities such as Kohima, Aizawl, Gangtok, Itanagar, and Bhubaneswar were highlighted as among the safest.

The study surveyed 12,770 women across 31 cities nationwide, capturing street harassment, workplace insecurity, and underreporting.

Only 22% of women reported harassment incidents to authorities, and action was taken in just 16% of cases. Additionally, 53% of women were unclear if their workplaces had a POSH policy in place.

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, said the report amplifies women’s voices and will guide policymakers, institutions, and communities in creating safer, more inclusive spaces.

Prahalad Rout, MD of Pvalue Analytics, added that the findings aim to help implement focused steps in line with India’s vision for 2047.

NARI 2025 will serve as an annual benchmark to track urban safety for women and shape future policies.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 561

CATCH THEM YOUNG

National Sports Day is observed on 29 August every year to honour hockey wizard and legend, Major Dhyan Chand, who was born on this day in 1905 and who led India to three Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936, scoring over 400 goals in a career spanning 23 years from 1926 to 1949. The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29 Aug 2012. The designation of a specific day as National Sports Day by the Government of India is to lay emphasis on the development of sporting culture in the country, creating and sustaining sports infrastructure and providing support at the grassroots level in order to produce world-class sports persons. In addition to the various activities held across the country to celebrate the occasion, the national awards like the Khel Ratna and Arjuna Award are also presented on this day.

The advantages accrued from sport and physical activity in our daily lives are enormous, especially for children, and on this National Sports Day, it would be worthwhile to look at these important and perennial advantages.

* Promote physical health. Any physical activity promotes physical well-being, helps in ideal body growth, develops an aptitude for a healthier and active lifestyle, overcomes sedentary behaviour and prevents lifestyle-related health issues. The physical activity could range from running in open areas followed by organised exercises, brisk walking, yoga, playing conventional games like kho-kho, which do not require any special infrastructure or equipment or any other activity specifically suitable as per the local conditions.

* Promote mental health. The endorphin hormones released during physical activity lead to a positive mental attitude, help in stress reduction and promote overall emotional well-being. Nowadays, with the ever-growing menace of academic stress, indulging in a limited but concentrated regular physical activity can provide a highly beneficial escape from the monotonous academic routine. It is a proven fact that a happy break provided by physical activity can lead to a much better focus and thus a better academic performance.

* Promote social development. In the present day age of fierce academic competition, where excellence in individual performance is the sole goal for the children, sports provide a refreshing and conducive platform for promoting crucial social skills like teamwork, cooperation, communication and camaraderie. In the longer run, these qualities can foster better interpersonal relationships, result in enhanced social inclusion and empathy.

Promote a positive value system. Sports not only build character, but also reveal it. Any sporting activity has the potential to inculcate a feeling of sportsmanship, which shall reflect in humility in victory and grace in defeat. Sports instil the ethics of fair play and avoidance of unfair means to achieve the desired results. The need for continued perseverance, dedication and continuous growth so vital in sports, prepares the children to face the future challenges in life with serenity.

Promote positive channelisation of the raw youth energy. The youth, by virtue of their natural hormonal disposition, are storehouse of abundant energy which needs to be channelised in a positive manner. Sports is an ideal gateway for the positive outflow of this raw energy. It is far better that the young people are scoring goals in a football game or hitting sixes in a cricket match or sweating on a running track instead of driving recklessly on the roads and creating nuisance for others or resorting to drug abuse or indulging in other nefarious activities.

Promote a healthy lifestyle. The present lure of the younger generation towards junk food, smoking, and drinking is reflected in their performance as compared to other children in their age group, while involved in a physical sport activity. The participation of children in sports activities and their poor performance on the field can motivate children to reflect on their present lifestyle and concentrate on the need to modify it appropriately. This can also overcome the problems created by peer pressure to indulge in an unhealthy lifestyle.

The development of a sporting culture in the country can be easily achieved by introducing young children to various sports activities in their formative years of development. While the government may create sports infrastructure, launch schemes to promote different sports, and introduce incentives to ensure adequate participation, the successful development of a sporting culture shall require the collective will and unwavering support of the parents, school authorities and the local communities.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Padhoge Likhoge Banoge Nawab,
Khologe Kudoge Banoge Kharab

This line easily summarises the dilemma of every parent as regards the future prospects of their children while they are in their formative years. This deep-rooted dilemma owes its existence to the lure of a stable job and economic safety. In India, sports are often viewed as a recreational activity and a pastime to be pursued till the age of 14 years and to be completely abandoned when the child reaches class tenth, when studies are prioritised over everything else. According to a recent survey, 70% of children in India stop playing sports by the age of 15, often to prioritise studies. This almost universal prioritisation of academics over sports is an acceptable societal norm since a career in sports lacks the assurance of a regular and continued financial stability, which other vocations offer. In India, presently, only cricket is capable of providing financial stability and recognition, but that too for a limited number of players. While other sports like badminton, tennis, football, kabaddi, athletics and chess are in the process of creating a niche for themselves, their journey has just commenced. There has been a visible shift in the minds of Gen Z and Gen Alpha which is not averse to taking risks to follow their dreams and pursue their passions. This shift towards pursuing sports as a career is clearly attributable to the combination of factors like government support through dedicated programs, schemes and incentives, direct involvement of the corporates which are in the process of remodelling their image and public appeal through association with sports and emergence of professional sporting leagues for cricket, kabaddi and football, etc. The parents must make efforts to move away from the deep-rooted belief that only academic excellence can assure a safe economic future. The dilemma of choosing between academics and sports needs to be replaced with a healthy balance where both can co-exist. The acceptance of this choice is difficult but worth it, to ensure that the next generation is happier in its choices.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

There's no such thing as civilization. The word just means the art of living in cities.

- Roger Zelazny

Improvement in India-China Bilateral Relations



NITYA CHAKRABORTY

India-China political relations have started improving giving all the indications that the leaderships of the two countries with the largest population in the world, are ready for building stable relationship after an uneasy period of five years since the Galwan killings on the border in 2020 in which 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives.

The process of healing began from last year itself but the course has intensified since US President Donald Trump started his tariff war and imposed 25 percent tariff on Indian exports to the USA and announced additional tariff of 25 per cent as a penalty for buying Russian oil to be effective from August 27 this year. The initial 25 per cent tariff has already taken effect.

President Trump's personal relations with the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi worsened since the ceasefire of the four day India Pakistan war announced on May 10 at 5 PM. Trump claimed credit for compelling both the warring governments to opt for the ceasefire which Modi consistently opposed. The India-US political relations got a further jolt with the sudden improvement in Pak-US relations. Trump hosted lunch in his Oval office for the Pak General Asim Munir who during his stay in USA threatened of a nuclear strike against India.

It was in this deteriorating state of India-US relationship, Chinese foreign minister paid a three day visit from August 18 to 20 and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi as also external affairs minister Dr. S Jaishankar and the National Security Adviser Ajit Doval. PM Modi told the Chinese foreign minister that the stable, predictable and constructive ties between India and China will contribute significantly to regional as well as global prosperity. PM is visiting Tianjin in China to attend the summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to be hosted by the Chinese President Xi Jinping on August 31 and September 1 next. Indian

Prime Minister will have bilateral talks with both President Xi Jinping as also the Russian President Vladimir Putin who will be attending.

The question is what is the basic imperative of the Prime Minister's sudden hobnobbing with both China and Russia just after getting the snub from President Trump on both political and trade tariff issues? Is it a jerk reaction to the US attitude to India or it is a part of a deliberate calibrated strategy to build India's strategic autonomy to look after India's national interests without being dependent on any of the big three powers USA, China and Russia.

This issue is of crucial importance as Indian PM will be attending Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit this month where he will discuss India's global strategy with both President Xi and President Putin. This will be followed by the US dominated QUAD meet in India hosted by Narendra Modi by the end of this year. The QUAD schedule is still on. It has not been postponed. In 2026, Prime Minister will host the BRICS summit in India. President Xi and even President Putin might be attending. In any case, President Putin is scheduled to arrive in India by year end as a part of his bilateral visit.

As regards China, the official Chinese view regarding India-China relations has undergone changes in the last one year and more so in the last two months in the context of the deterioration of India-US relations. The Chinese commentators have taken note of the recent moves by both sides in normalizing relations. For instance both governments are expediting visa facilitation; talks on resuming direct flights are reportedly underway; the two sides are discussing resuming border trade of domestic goods.

Further multiple friction points along the Line of Actual Control have seen disengagement with reinforced buffer arrangements; and both the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) and the Talks Between the Special

Representatives of China and India on the Boundary Question have become regularized. Together, these steps show that both countries are prioritizing stability and embracing a practical approach of "managing differences while expanding common ground."

According to Global Times, the official English daily of the Chinese Government, several factors explain why relations are improving now. First, profound shifts in the international landscape have heightened the shared desire for multipolarity and strategic autonomy, particularly regarding BRICS cooperation. With supply chains being reconfigured and geopolitical flashpoints multiplying, major Asian economies are seeking to reduce bloc-based risks and preserve policy flexibility.

Second, structural complementarities and mutual security concerns create intrinsic momentum. As two large economies with complementary markets, China and India have significant opportunities to collaborate in manufacturing ecosystems, the digital economy, green transition, public health and poverty reduction.

Third, regional and multilateral platforms provide responsibility and traction. Frameworks such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the G20 enable the two countries to coordinate on development priorities. Practical collaboration amplifies the voice of the Global South and prevents differences from diluting broader cooperation.

As the Chinese official media sees it, a stable border is foundational for regional development; any escalation raises costs and constrains cooperation. Wang Yi's visit for boundary talks to India at this juncture carries substantive weight. The boundary question is central to the relationship and underpins further progress. This comment was made by GT on August 19 issue the day the Chinese foreign minister met the Indian PM Narendra Modi.

Together, China and India account for roughly 2.8 billion people. Expanding cooperation in lower-sensitivity areas of supply chains, cross-border e-commerce, healthcare, clean energy and connectivity can boost jobs and investment while enhancing regional supply-chain resilience and efficiency. In the fields of technological and green transition synergy, complementarities in digital infrastructure, renewables, energy storage and electric mobility offer practical avenues for aligning projects.

Chinese government wants to channelize more investments in India. New Delhi is careful about the sectors where national security is involved. But in the latest economic survey, the finance ministry has favored increased investments from China. Both governments can discuss the sectors and clear concerns about national security. Once the process starts and other areas open up, there will be more trust between the two governments and the delicate border disputes can be tackled more effectively for arriving at an understanding.

The Chinese official media also underlines that, the gradual improvement of bilateral relations is conducive to increasing mutual trust. From a broader perspective, the bilateral relations have to be seen as a part of a long term strategy by India. Only then the border issues can be solved amicably. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to give a relook at the contours of Indian foreign policy and reset the priorities on the basis of strategic autonomy and multipolarity. India will be able to talk to all three big powers USA, China and Russia with strength and conviction. Just as India should not be a part of Trump's global strategy, similarly, India can't align with China and Russia in their respective strategies to further their national interests.

India is the country with the largest population in the world and it will soon become the fourth largest economy globally. This nation of

1.44 billion with more than 5000 years of rich civilization behind it has the capacity to move on its own with flexibility to deal with all including the big powers. It is to be seen whether Narendra Modi imparts a dynamic shift in his foreign policy in that direction or goes back to his old ways after a small gap due to some political compulsions. Indian Prime Minister is on test.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

Greetings on National Sports Day! On this special occasion, we pay tribute to Major Dhyan Chand Ji, whose excellence continues to inspire generations.

In the last decade, India's sporting landscape has undergone a remarkable transformation. From grassroots programmes that nurture young talent to creating world-class facilities, we are seeing a vibrant sports ecosystem in our nation. Our government remains committed to supporting athletes, building infrastructure and making India a global hub for sporting excellence.
~ Narendra Modi, PM



DRONES IN AGRICULTURE: IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY

DR. YUDHISHTHER S. BAGAL

Technology, in the modern agriculture system, has formed an essential part of the efficiency and sustainability. Among such developments is the use of drones, or more colloquially, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that have transformed how to monitor crop health and how resources are managed by farmers. This article breaks grounds on the revolutionary importance of drones in the agricultural field, their contribution to the growth of healthy crops, increasing production, and creation of a sustainable future of the agricultural industry. Precision agriculture is a concept that deals with observation, measurement and response to variability crops within farming management. The technology takes advantage of this practice so that crops get the precise amount they need in order to be as healthy and productive as possible. Drones have become useful in this fine-tuning of its management that was not possible or prohibitively expensive to achieve through a bird-eye view before.

The monitoring and data gathering of crops health, soil properties, and water status is one of the main roles of the drone in agriculture. Drones are also equipped with high-resolution cameras and sensors and are thus able to provide detailed pictures and data in large and diverse terrains. The information enables farmers to plan better on water management, pest control, fertilizer application, and other options to ensure that there is no waste of resources and to enhance the crop yield.

Drones are also plays a crucial role in identifying

and diagnosing the crop problems in early stages. Drones can detect problematic areas even before they can be spotted using the naked eye through class imaging technologies such as hyperspectral, thermal, as well as, multispectral imagery. The timely identification of diseases, pests and nutrient deficiencies would allow the specific application of intervention to prevent widespread crop damage and crop loss.

In addition to monitoring, precise application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can be delivered with the help of drones. Traditional ways of carrying out manual application can be time-consuming and inefficient and inconsistent. Drones will however be able to apply treatments directly in target areas and reduce the run offs and exposure to chemicals as well as to ensure that optimum dose of treatments is applied. Such precision does not only improve the crop health and yield but also help in conserving the environment.

There are many challenges in the integration of drones in the agricultural sector in spite of the prospects. Initial cost of drone technology and specialized trainings in operating drone may be significant barriers for some farmers. Also, the aspects of airspace and privacy regulation are some issues that have yet to be addressed. However, due to the development and increase of accessibility of technology, these difficulties are slowly being overcome.

With ongoing advancements of drone technology and analytics software, drones in precision agricul-

ture have their bright future. The AI-powered data analysis will make the agriculture drones even more efficient and enhance the precision. As these technologies further develop, drones will play an even bigger role in sustainable farming. With the continuous development of these technologies, drones are becoming an integral part of sustainable farming practices and in the optimization of resources. The adoption of the drone technology in precision agriculture is also an indicator of shift towards data-driven farming which increasing productivity and providing relief to the global effort of food security, assists in environmental conservation.

The vast amount of information gathered by the drones provides excellent knowledge on the health and status of crops planted in various stages of growth. This data facilitates the shift of farmers to proactive, precision-focused farming practices that replaced their traditional and usually reactive methods. Farmers will be able to analyze the data on the soil humidity, crop health, and the presence of pest and predict the problems before they become out of control, ultimately leading to healthier and stronger crops capable of producing more yields.

The drones are used to spray water, fertilizers, and pesticides in the most accurate way possible, which has cut the environmental impact of farming significantly. Using drones means that certain areas requiring specific treatment can reduce the runoff of chemicals into the surrounding water bodies and reduce the greenhouse gases that emitted through traditional farming equipment. This precision meth-

od not only saves resources and safeguards the environment and promoting diversity.

As the world population is expected to hit 9.7 billion in the year 2050 and the same is likely to rise in terms of receiving food. With the use of drones, the answer to this looming challenge is presented using precision agriculture. Drones bring benefits to sustainable intensification of farming which plays a crucial role in ensuring the world's current and rising food demands are met without expanding agricultural lands.

The potential of the future development of drone technology is very much promising in agriculture. Further expansion of the capacity of drones in precision agriculture will be even more enhanced by integration into other technologies (IoT devices, blockchain-based traceability, and artificial intelligence used to perform predictive analytics). The new technologies would help to give a simple structure to agricultural activities, reduce labor cost and increase the scalability of precision farming methods.

However, the drone-intensive agriculture is not about to become common overnight. In addition to the initial financial investment and regulatory entry barriers, there are technical issues which need to be solved, namely, better battery life, more capable data processing system, and the ability to capture a larger range of data through evermore advanced sensors. Moreover, the farmers require digital literacy and technical know-how to make the best out of drone technology.

No proof of misbehaviour: SC revokes suspension of Arunachal public service commission member

ITANAGAR

The Supreme Court, on August 28, set aside the suspension of Arunachal Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) member Mepung Tadar Bage, ruling that there was no evidence to support allegations of "misbehaviour" against her in connection with the 2022 examination paper leak case.

A bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Aravind Kumar, while answering a Presidential Reference under Article 317(1) of the Constitution, said the charges against Bage "do not even meet the threshold of a lapse, let alone misbehaviour." It directed that her suspension be revoked immediately, restoring her entitlement to all consequential and monetary benefits.

"The actions alleged against the Respondent do not meet the threshold of 'misbehaviour'; rather, they do not even meet the threshold of 'lapse' which has a lower threshold. It is not

a case where the Respondent was unable to maintain the standard of conduct expected of a Member of a Commission and her actions alone brought disrepute to the APPSC," the bench said.

It added, "In view of the foregoing, the inescapable conclusion on the allegations of charges as made in the reference is that the allegations have not been proved. In terms of Order XLIII Rule 5 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 and answering the reference under Article 317(1) of the Constitution of India, this report with recommendation shall be sent to the President of India that the charges as alleged do not bring about any act of 'misbehaviour' by Ms. Mepung Tadar Bage for taking action within its contours."

The bench said the court further recommends that her suspension be revoked forthwith and she would be entitled to all consequential and monetary benefits.

The top court also found fault with

the decision of the state government to recommend for Presidential reference under Article 317 (1) which contemplates that the chairman or any other member of a public service commission can only be removed by an order of the president of India on the ground of misbehaviour.

It further contemplates that the said misbehaviour may be proved by inquiry before the Supreme Court following the procedure prescribed in Order XLIII of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 framed under Article 145(1)(j) of the Constitution of India and the report in this regard shall be submitted to the president of India.

"In our view, the act of the State requesting the President of India to initiate the removal of the Respondent is arbitrary, unfair and discriminatory," the bench said in its 77-page verdict.

It noted that after the leakage of the question paper for Mains Examination for the post of Assistant Engineer (Civ-

il) came to light, the state made a reference to the Inquiry Committee and the chairman and fellow members of the APPSC submitted their resignations on moral grounds and for other reasons.

The bench noted that following the resignation, two members of the commission were sworn in as the state chief information commissioner of Arunachal Pradesh and as chairperson of the Arunachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission.

"If the members of the APPSC who were allegedly collectively found involved in the paper leak as per the letter of Chief Minister, later resigned and got assignment of new post by the State, it is a question to ponder upon, which ought to be looked into by the State especially so when Article 319(d) of the Constitution of India bars members of a State Public Service Commission from taking up any other employment either under the Government of India

or under the Government of a State after they cease to be in office," the bench said.

It added that in the court's view, if the members were collectively involved, the act of the state government bequeathing responsibility upon such members, giving them assignment of posts having responsibilities, clearly goes to indicate that there was nothing against the chairman or any member of the commission showing their indictment in a personal capacity of committing any act or omission which may prove misbehaviour on their part.

"In view of the above, on taking a holistic approach to the charges framed in the present reference and having gone through the voluminous record and evidence which has been brought before us, juxtaposed against the body of judicial precedent in the form of previous reports under Article 317 of the Constitution of India which guide our decision-making in the present refer-

ence, it is difficult to see how the allegation of 'misbehaviour' on the part of the Respondent has been proved," the bench said. It added that it is true that the members of the public service commission must be held to higher standards and their conduct must be unimpeachable, but where the consequence of our fact-finding inquiry would be the removal of the chairman or member from a constitutional office, the court must be abundantly cautioned and tread carefully.

"In the present case, after appreciation of evidence, we can see that from the very inception, from the report of the Inquiry Committee, no specific allegation against the Respondent qua any of the six charges was levelled," the top court said, adding that the intent of Article 317 of the Constitution of India was to give a higher degree of protection to the members of the public service commission by eliminating political or any pressure otherwise.

Tripura leads Northeast in PDS digitisation with 81% e-KYC success

AGARTALA

The Tripura government has taken new initiatives to make the public distribution system (PDS) more powerful, transparent and people-oriented. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said.

Inaugurating a state-level discussion with officials, ration dealers and transport contractors, the Minister announced the introduction of PVC ration cards in place of the old paper-based ones for consumer convenience. Distribution of these new cards began from August 28.

In the first phase, 4.78 lakh PVC ration cards have been prepared, which will be handed over by ration dealers through small functions in the presence of local public representatives.

Highlighting Tripura's progress, Chowdhury said, "Tripura ranks first in the North East and third or fourth in the country in terms of PDS performance. We have already achieved 81 per cent success in e-KYC. Our target is to reach 100 per cent so that Tripura becomes number one in the country."

The minister further informed that 600 ration shops are being converted into model ration shops in the first phase. The government has also increased commission for dealers under Antyodaya Anna Yojana and the Priority Group from Rs 143 to Rs 180.

He stressed on timely supply and quality maintenance of ration items, adding that the government provides a subsidy of Rs 25 per kilo on lentils and Rs 15 per kilo on sugar. Consumers will also receive atta, flour and semolina during the upcoming Durga festival.

Special Secretary of the department Debapriya Bardhan said the discussion was organised to ensure smooth and transparent functioning of ration shops across the state.

Manipur Gov urges effective implementation of health schemes for inclusive access



IMPHAL

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Thursday, August 28 chaired a high-level meeting at Raj Bhavan to review healthcare delivery mechanisms in the state and directed officials to ensure effective implementation of government health schemes, with a focus on equitable access for all communities.

According to a statement from Raj Bhavan, the discussions centered on bridging financial gaps in healthcare delivery and expanding access to affordable, quality

medical facilities across both urban and rural areas of Manipur.

The Governor emphasized that concrete steps must be taken so that "no community is left behind in accessing quality healthcare." Officials were instructed to strengthen outreach mechanisms, enhance infrastructure, and ensure transparency in scheme execution.

During the meeting, the State Health Mission Society made detailed presentations on the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), outlining its coverage and benefits for the people of Manipur.

Observers note that the Governor's intervention comes at a crucial time, as the state continues to grapple with challenges in healthcare accessibility, especially in remote and conflict-affected areas.

Assam tea associations raise alarm over imports, auctions, and pesticide norms to tea board

GUWAHATI

A delegation representing the Assam Bought Leaf Tea Manufacturers Association (ABL-TMA), Bharatiya Cha Parishad (BCP), and North Eastern Tea Association (NETA) met Tea Board India Deputy Chairperson Arunika Phukan Yadav to submit a memorandum highlighting key issues facing the Indian tea industry.

The delegation expressed concerns over tea imports from African countries, particularly Kenya, entering the Indian market without paying proper duty or through irregular channels, which they fear could threaten the domestic tea sector. According to Tea Board of Kenya data, exports to India rose by 45% in January-June this year compared to the same period last year. Imports in 2024-25 reportedly doubled to 50.14 million kgs from 25.21 million kgs in



2023-24, with the majority coming from Kenya (17 million kgs) and Nepal (15 million kgs). The delegation noted discrepancies between this data and figures from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), raising further suspicions.

The associations also urged better tracking of re-exports, suggesting the implementation of a software system to monitor imports and re-exports. They recommended the formation of a task force to investigate im-

ports holistically and propose measures to protect the Indian tea industry.

Another major concern raised was the Tea Board's regulation requiring 100% dust-grade tea to be routed through public auctions. The delegation argued that with five auction centres in North India—Kolkata, Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Guwahati, and Jorhat—there is no true single point of sale. They claimed that mandatory auctioning has caused financial distress and that tea growers are

capable of selling via auction or private channels, depending on market conditions. The associations requested the withdrawal of the Tea Board's July 25 order on dust-grade tea routing.

The delegation also raised issues regarding compliance with pesticide norms, criticising a Tea Board letter to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) requiring six off-label pesticides to undergo compulsory testing. They urged withdrawal of the letter, stating they are willing to comply with statutory regulations but cautioning against over-regulation.

The delegation included ABLTMA Chairman Chand Kumar Gohain and Vice Chairman Chandijit Barush, NETA Chairman Ajay Dhandhanian, its advisor Bidyanand Barkakoty, executive committee member Manab Agarwalla, and BCP executive committee member Sumit Agarwalla.

Protest by student's body on land issue



SUSHANTA ROY

DIPHU: Diphu town, the headquarters of Karbi Anglong dis-

trict, witnessed a massive protest yesterday as thousands of Karbi Student Association activists took to the streets

against the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), accusing it of giving tribal land to non-tribal community people.

The demonstration, led by the Karbi Student Association, drew widespread participation from local residents and political group. The protest march began at Birla and culminated at the office of the Assistant Revenue Officer, where demonstrators raised strong slogans.

The anger was directed at officials of the Land and Revenue department, with protesters alleging that the Sixth Schedule provisions safeguarding tribal rights were being undermined.

The agitators claimed that thousands of bighas of land protected under the Sixth Schedule are being sold illegally to non-tribal people jeopardizing the cultural and economic

identity of the hill communities.

The protest highlighted mounting discontent among local communities, who demand strict protection of their constitutional rights and an immediate halt to land transfers in favor of corporate groups.

On the flip side the protestors also condemned the statement of a self-styled Bengali student leader, Dipak Dey. Allegedly Dipak Dey came to Howrah at locality of Karbi Anglong recently to attend a meeting organized by Bengali Samaj, a local social organization of Howrah.

After the meeting he made some derogatory remarks against Tuliram Ronghang, Chief Executive Member of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council. Dey, who was invited to that meeting by the Bengali Samaj also provided him space to speak before the media.

Mizoram opposes Centre's plan to fence Indo-Myanmar border

AIZAWL

Mizoram Home Minister K. Sapdanga on Thursday reiterated that the state government opposes the Centre's plan to fence the Mizoram section of the Indo-Myanmar border.

Speaking in the state assembly, Sapdanga said that while fencing the international border falls under the Union government's jurisdiction, the Centre is coordinating with the Assam Rifles and assessing the matter.

He added that the Mizoram government, as a landowner, has expressed its concerns but also supported the Centre's broader initiatives regarding border management.

The minister referred to the assembly resolution passed on 28 February 2024, which opposed both the fencing plan and the scrapping of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with Myanmar.

The resolution also urged the Modi government to take steps to unify the Zo ethnic people, divided across countries due to

colonial-era policies, under one administrative unit.

Sapdanga noted that the state cabinet had previously objected to the fencing plan and that letters were sent to the Lok Sabha secretary in March 2024 and the Home Ministry in April 2024 to communicate the assembly's and cabinet's stance.

Mizoram shares a 510-km-long border with Myanmar's Chin state, and the ethnic Mizo population shares strong ties with the Chins. Currently, over 29,000 refugees from Chin state, displaced after the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, are taking shelter in Mizoram. The state government is also conducting biometric enrollment for Myanmar nationals and asylum seekers from Bangladesh's Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Civil society organizations and student bodies, including the Young Mizo Association (YMA), have strongly opposed the Centre's decision, citing concerns that fencing and lifting the FMR could disrupt ethnic ties and traditional movement across the border.

Tripura CM: 95% of targeted women become 'Lakhpati Didis'

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha, on August 28, said that nearly 95 per cent of the state's targeted women under the 'Lakhpati Didis' initiative have already achieved the milestone, a testament to the success of women-led self-help groups and integrated farming models in the state.

Speaking at the National Workshop on Integrated Farming Clusters (IFC) for North Eastern States at Hotel Polo Tower, Agartala, Saha said that 1,08,281 women out of the targeted 1.14 lakh have become Lakhpatis Didis.

The chief minister highlighted that agriculture continues to be the backbone of the economy and rural households, and the IFC approach under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission has been designed to strengthen women's livelihoods through diversified and intensified farming practices.

He said in order to strengthen livelihoods, particularly for members of



women's self-help groups, the Integrated Farming Cluster (IFC) approach has been conceptualised under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Mission by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

"In Tripura, we have already launched activities for 80 Integrated Farming Clusters (IFCs) with an investment of Rs 32 crore. These were inaugurated at the Sampurnata Abhijan

Samman Samaroh on August 2, 2025. The objective of these integrated farming clusters is to diversify and intensify livelihood interventions so that rural households can increase their incomes through integration and synergy," said Saha.

He said that today there are about 4.85 lakh women members in 54,113 self-help groups, 2,470 village organisations and 173 cluster-level federations.

"For strengthening their livelihood,

2,628 producer groups and 118 non-farm collectives have been developed, and we have facilitated Rs 1,677 crore in bank loans along with Rs 787 crore as revolving fund and community investment fund support. I am proud to share that in Tripura, we are moving forward with this mission at full speed. Out of the 1.14 Lakh targeted Didis, already 1,08,281 have become Lakhpatis Didis, which is around 95% in Tripura," said Saha.

He further said that this transformation has been made possible because of the determination of women, government support and community solidarity. "Our women are now actively involved in piggy, pottery, poultry, fisheries, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprises, group-based ventures, catering services and agro-ecological practices, making rural Tripura vibrant and self-reliant. In the North-East Rising Summit 2025 at New Delhi, our Prime Minister rightly said that the North-East is Ashtalakshmi. To realise this vision, our government is giving maximum attention to infrastructure, connectivity and livelihood generation. Over the last seven years, Tripura has undertaken several groundbreaking initiatives that are changing the socio-economic landscape of the state," he added.

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Uttarakhand faces rising climate disasters, crumbling infrastructure: Report warns of escalating crisis



DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand, the land of gods, is teetering on the edge of an unprecedented disaster crisis, according to a scathing new report.

The July 2025 edition of the Uttarakhand Disaster & Accident Analysis Initiative (UDAAI) by the Dehradun-based Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation paints a grim picture of escalating extreme weather events, crumbling infrastructure, and mounting human tragedies across the Himalayan state.

Compiled from credible media sources, the UDAAI report serves as a stark warning, underscoring Uttarakhand's rapidly growing vulnerability to both climate-induced catastrophes and human-triggered blunders.

One of the most alarming revelations comes from a Wadia Institute study cited in the report, identifying 25 glacial lakes in a perilous state out of 426 larger than 1,000 sq.

meters. Experts warn these unstable lakes pose a high risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), echoing the catastrophic Kedarnath disaster of 2013. Scientists are urgently calling for constant monitoring and robust early-warning systems in these high-risk zones.

Adding to the glacial threat, the Chorabari glacier near Kedarnath is retreating at an alarming rate of 7 meters per year, further increasing the potential for future outburst events.

The monsoon's recent wrath has been particularly severe. Heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, and landslides have wreaked havoc in Chamoli district, blocking over 115 roads and devastating homes and agricultural land. A severe cloudburst near Dhurma village destroyed houses and dramatically diverted river flows, forcing immediate evacuations.

According to the report, an SDC spokesperson stated that connectivity to the revered

Char Dham and Hemkund Sahib pilgrimages is precarious, with the Bhanerpani stretch on the Badrinath Highway facing increasingly severe land subsidence issues.

A peer-reviewed study further solidifies Uttarakhand's grim reality, flagging the state as a hotspot for extreme climate events. The report highlights a sharp and worrying rise in cloudbursts and flash floods across the region post-2010, directly linking these to a changing climate.

The report highlighted that beyond environmental disasters, human tragedies continue to mount: 8 killed in Pithoragarh's max accident, 8 more die and 28 were injured in Haridwar temple stampede, highlighting glaring gaps in crowd management and emergency preparedness.

Crucial infrastructure is also under severe threat. The report raises a red flag on Totaghati, a critical section of the Rishikesh-Badrinath Highway, where deep cracks in limestone rocks could lead to a massive collapse, potentially cutting off access to large parts of Garhwal for months.

Moreover, a new scientific study directly links the ambitious Char Dham Highway project to an alarming increase in landslides. A staggering 811 landslides have been identified along 800 km of these routes, primarily attributed to unsafe slope-cutting practices during construction.

'World is counting on India', says PM Modi during Japan visit

TOKYO

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Japan on Friday, said that the world is not just watching India, it is counting on it.

Addressing the India-Japan Economic Forum in Tokyo, PM Modi emphasised the strong partnership between the two countries and highlighted areas for future collaboration, including manufacturing, technology, innovation, green energy, and skill development.

"Japan has always been an important partner in India's Vikas Yatra (development journey)," Modi said, adding, "Japan's excellence and India's scale can create a perfect partnership."

Echoing the remarks of Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba at the forum, PM Modi said, "Japan is a tech powerhouse and India is a talent powerhouse. Together, we can lead the tech revolution of this century."

He noted that India is taking bold and ambitious steps in areas such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum computing, biotechnology, and space.

PM Modi also highlighted the signing of a Joint Credit Mechanism agreement between India and Japan for cooperation in clean fuel and building a green future.

"Today, India enjoys political stability, economic stability, transparency in policies, and policy predictability," he said. "India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, and very soon, it will become the third-largest economy."

He noted that India contributes 18% to global growth and offers strong market returns. The country's robust banking sector, low inflation, low interest rates, and nearly \$700 billion in foreign exchange reserves are signs of its



economic strength, he added.

"Our approach of reform, perform, and transform is driving all this progress," PM Modi said.

Touching on India's tax reforms, he highlighted the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017 and simplified income tax compliance.

But our reforms are not limited to taxation. We have also focused on ease

of doing business, created a single digital approval window, rationalised over 45,000 compliances, and established a deregulation committee."

He further noted that the defence and space sectors have been opened up to private players, and efforts are underway to open the nuclear sector as well.

Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba also

praised the growing bilateral economic ties, saying, "Japan's advanced technology and India's outstanding talent complement each other, leading to a dramatic expansion in our economic cooperation. Many Japanese companies are playing a key role in the Make in India initiative."

He added that the signing of new cooperation documents between Indian and Japanese companies demonstrates Japan's strong commitment to deepening its investment in India. "It is clear evidence that we are steadily building a supply chain centered around our two nations," Ishiba said.

Reaffirming the broader vision, PM Modi stated, "The world is not just watching India, it is counting on India."

He emphasised that the India-Japan partnership is both strategic and smart. "It is powered by economic logic, and we have transformed shared interests into shared prosperity. India serves as a springboard for Japanese businesses to access the Global South. Together, we will shape the Asian century, one of stability, growth, and prosperity."

PM Modi also noted that Japan has invested over USD 40 billion in India so far. "From metro rail to manufacturing, from semiconductors to startups, Japanese companies have been key contributors to India's development journey," he said.

This visit marks PM Modi's first standalone trip to Japan in nearly seven years and aims to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen the Special Strategic and Global Partnership with Tokyo.

The visit comes at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba. During the summit, the two leaders will hold in-depth discussions to review progress across various sectors and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh to charge 1971 war veteran, 15 others under terror law after mob rescue

DHAKA

Bangladesh police said it would lodge cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act against a prominent 1971 Liberation War veteran and 15 others hours after they were "rescued" from a mob during a public discussion.

"A process is underway to lodge cases against the 16 detainees. They are now under the custody of the Detective Branch (DB)," Bangladesh's national daily Prothom Alo said quoting Dhaka Police's Joint Commissioner Nasirul Islam.

Police said former minister and 1971 war veteran Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Dhaka University law professor Hafizur Rahman Curzon, journalist Manjurul Alam Panna, several freedom fighters, former bureaucrats and others were charged under the tough Anti-Terrorism Act of 2009.

The announcement came nearly 11 hours after Dhaka Police Deputy Commissioner Masud Alam said the group was taken into custody to "protect them from public unrest" and a decision on the "next course" would follow.

The 16 were targeted on Thursday when they gathered for a public discussion titled 'Our Great Liberation War and the Constitution of Bangladesh', organised by the newly formed veterans' platform 'Moncho 71' at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium.

The mob called the organisers and participants of the event "accomplices of the fascist regime" of the former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and alleged they rallied there to conspire against last year's student-led movement, dubbed as the 'July Uprising'.

The violent movement led by Students against Discrimination (SAD) toppled Hasina's Awami League regime on August 5, 2024 when she left the country for neighbouring India aboard a Bangladesh Air Force plane.

Three days later Professor



Muhammad Yunus took over as the Chief Advisor of the interim government as the SAD nominee.

'Moncho 71' platform was launched earlier this month, announcing that it would uphold the "1971 Liberation War, Bangladesh's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the 1972 Constitution, the national flag and the national anthem". The group that came storming the auditorium identified themselves as the 'July warriors'

as they tore down the banner of the discussion. They allegedly assaulted some of the participants chanting slogans such as "Let the weapon of July roar again", "Catch a league (Awami League), send him to jail" and "July warriors would not allow any such conspiracy to be hatched".

"Freedom fighters of all political backgrounds were invited to the event. Soon after the programme started, more than 25 young men came to the scene and created chaos," the 1971

veteran Golam Mostafa told media persons.

Siddique was a minister who was expelled from Hasina's cabinet and the party for breaching discipline in 2014 while other participants too are not known for their affiliation with Awami League.

Most participants were detained by the mob at the scene for a long time though members and officials of Dhaka Reporters Union (DRU), which rented the venue for the platform for the meet, tried to guard or rescue them until police arrived at the scene and escorted them out.

Elderly lawyer and Liberation War veteran ZI Khan Panna, a key-organiser of Moncho 71, who had not joined the event due to health issues, in video message on social media called the mob "a group of miscreants."

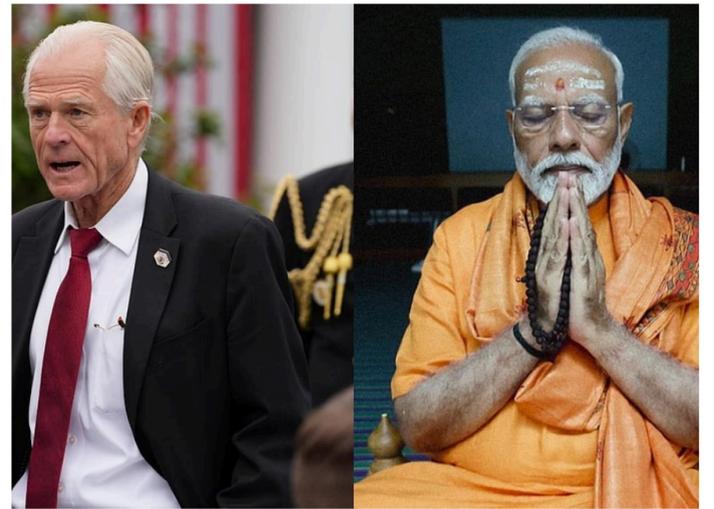
He said the assault "reflects what freedom of expression now exists in the country" under the interim government. DRU later issued a statement saying "DRU is an open platform. Everyone has freedom of expression here. Threats or obstruction from any party are not acceptable here".

The development came a day after secretary general of former prime minister Khaleda Zia's BNP Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir alleged that efforts are underway to erase the 1971 Liberation War from people's memories, asserting that those who "helped enemies" are now speaking aloud.

"Many efforts are going on to make people forget 1971...those who helped the enemies at that time are now speaking loudly," the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader said, referring to the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party, which had opposed the 1971 Independence from Pakistan.

"We fought in the (independence) war of 1971. We have not forgotten 1971. It is not possible to forget," he added.

With photo of Modi in saffron robe, Trump's trade adviser targets India again over Russian oil imports



WASHINGTON

A day after controversially calling the Ukraine war "Modi's war," Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro has launched a fresh tirade against India, accusing it of being a "money laundromat for the Kremlin."

In a series of social media posts, Navarro slammed India for buying discounted Russian crude, refining it, and exporting fuels globally, claiming the profits fuel Russia's war in Ukraine.

"India's Big Oil lobby has turned the world's largest democracy into a massive refining hub and oil money laundromat for the Kremlin," he wrote, accusing Indian refiners

of partnering with Russian entities and exporting over 1 million barrels per day, more than half the volume of Russian crude imported.

Navarro slammed India for maintaining high tariffs on U.S. exports while demanding sensitive military technology transfers and defense manufacturing deals with American firms.

"That's strategic free-loading," he said.

"If India wants to be treated like a strategic partner, it needs to act like one." This latest escalation follows the Trump administration's imposition of 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods.

The trade adviser said the 50 per cent tariff "25 per cent for unfair trade and 25 per cent for national secu-

rity" was a direct response. India has called the tariffs "unjustified and unreasonable," vowing to protect its economic interests.

Navarro also pointed to the growing trade imbalance, noting the U.S. runs a \$50 billion deficit with India. He alleged that U.S. dollars are being used to fund Russian oil purchases, indirectly financing Putin's war effort.

"They make a killing, and Ukrainians die," he said.

Adding to the controversy, Navarro accompanied his posts with provocative visuals titled "India-Russia Blood Oil Trade," featuring images of Prime Minister Modi with President Putin, and Modi in a meditative pose.

RASHTRIYA SWAYAMSEVAK SANGH:



CENTENARY YEAR JOURNEY AND MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

"UNITY IN DIVERSITY THROUGH DEDICATION, DISCIPLINE AND INCLUSIVENESS: THE CENTENARY JOURNEY OF THE SANGH"



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The objective of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is not limited to the organization only. It works to strengthen moral, cultural and social values in the society, develop discipline and dedication in each individual and contribute to nation building. The approach of the Sangh is inclusive; it is not against any religion, caste or group. The word Hindu does not mean only religion, but responsibility, devotion and commitment to society. The Sangh works to free the society from factionalism and establish unity in diversity. Shatabdi Yatra is a confirmation of this dedication and organization.

Under the guidance of organisation chief Dr Mohan Bhagwat, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh organised a three-

is to contribute in making the country a world leader. The prayer of the Sangh "Bharat Mata ki Jai" is not just words but an inspiration of action and dedication. The formation of the Sangh is the result of a slow and continuous process, which has stood the test of time.

Although the Sangh uses the word 'Hindu', its essence is not limited to religion alone. It contains a sense of inclusion, humanity and responsibility towards the nation. The aim of the Sangh is not to stand for any opposition or competition, but to maintain the unity of the country by organizing every section of the society. The work of the Sangh is carried out through volunteers, and this work provides an opportunity to train new volunteers and develop leadership and responsibility in them.

The concept of nation is not defined by

Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar and other great men recognized the need to remove the vices of society and to organize the entire society. The Sangh was established in 1925 with the vision to strengthen the moral and cultural values of the society and ensure contribution to nation building. The word 'Hindu' is not just a religion, but a symbol of responsibility, dedication and inclusion. It does not have the feeling of separating or opposing anyone, but the objective is to unite everyone and organize the society.

India's nature is of cooperation and coordination, not conflict. Its unity lies in geography, resources and tradition of introspection. Looking inside instead of looking outside makes it clear that there is the same element in all, even if it appears in different forms. This is why Mother India and ancestors are revered by us. A person who respects Mother India and his ancestors is a true Hindu. Words may change, but the feeling of devotion and reverence connects every person in the society.

Gradually people in the society have started understanding the meaning of the words Sangh and Hindu. With the improvement in the quality of life, people return to their original traditions. The Sangh does not force anyone to become a Hindu; its aim is to contribute to the

overall organization of society and nation building. The Sangh is not against any religion, caste or group, but organizes the society by connecting everyone with an inclusive approach.

Sangh's work is not limited to the organization only. Its aim is to develop moral, cultural and social values within every person of the society. Bringing awareness and discipline in the society is the main objective of the Sangh. Personal dedication and discipline have special importance in the working method of the Sangh. Every volunteer imbibes the basic spirit and working style of the Sangh and implements it in the society. The aim of the Sangh is that there should be no factionalism in the society, but everyone should be organized and unity should be maintained in the country.

Unity in diversity is India's true identity. Despite different languages, religions, cultures and traditions, India's identity lies in its soul, culture and respect for ancestors. The aim of the Sangh is to maintain this unity and make every person of the society a part of it. The work of the Sangh works at all three levels of individual development, social upliftment and nation building. Through the Sangh, moral and cultural values are being strengthened in the society. Through the Sangh workers, the Sangh instills discipline, dedication and spirit of service in the society. The aim of the Sangh is not limited to the volunteers only, but its influence is to reach every section of the society. There is a balance between individual effort and organizational vision in the working style of the Sangh. The aim of the Sangh is that every person in the society should understand his duties and contribute to nation building. The lecture series shed light on the establishment of the Sangh, the meaning of the word Hindu, organisational vision, social service and the process of nation building. The aim of the Sangh is not to oppose anyone but to contribute to the upliftment of the society and the nation. The working style of the Sangh, personal dedication and organisational vision are a source of inspiration for the society.

Thus, this lecture series of the Sangh Centenary Year provides an important opportunity to understand the role of the Sangh in society, its functioning and purpose. It makes it clear that the purpose of the Sangh is not limited to the organization only, but to contribute to the overall upliftment of the society and nation building. The work of the Sangh is to organize the society through personal dedication, discipline and social responsibility.



day lecture series at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi on the occasion of its centenary year. This event was not just a programme but a live demonstration of the ideology,



Wake up early, meditate, exercise, and practice forgiveness.

working methods and the journey of social construction of the Sangh. The Sangh was formed keeping India at the centre and its aim

power or government. In Indian tradition, the meaning of nation is associated with culture, self-reflection and social consciousness. Looking at history, it is clear that the freedom struggle of 1857 was unsuccessful, but it gave rise to new consciousness and self-awareness in Indian society. After this, Congress emerged, which paved the way for political understanding and social reform. After independence, the challenge of removing the inequalities and evils arising in the society remained. This need gave birth to the establishment of the Sangh and its role.

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KRC FOUNDATION

ACTIVITY PROGRAM



12 JAN
NE Cultural Fest

Any Form of Art and Cultural showcase can be showcased here. The Top performances will be invited to perform in the NE Cultural Fest. School, College, University Department, Individual & Group Competition.



11 JAN
Adventure Sports

Tracking & Campus, Obstacle Navigation, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management Technique, Water Sports.



11 JAN
Barak Valley Conclave

Potential Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley to be discussed by stakeholders. Includes NGOs, and Government officials, for better planning, awareness, and disaster management and preparedness programs. Participation through invitation only. Different rewards are provided.

BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025



2025 BARAK VALLEY CONCLAVE

11th January, 2025 | Theme: SILCHAR | POTENTIAL, ISSUES & CHALLENGES

REGISTER NOW

www.krcfoundation.org | info@krcfoundation.org | 971 8562 19



12 JAN
River-Climate Conclave

Climate Change will influence on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, technical and practical of River Barak, Planning & Geography, environment and health in the River Barak, Climate Change.



JAN'25
Online Global Fest

All can participate online and send a video clip on Poems, Songs and Dance Performances, Bengali, English, Hindi & Manipuri. Last Date: 31st December 2024.



Barak Festival
Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion

BROADCAST PARTNER

REGISTER HERE

Contact: WP: 07213000 19 | info@krcfoundation.org



11 JAN
5E For Success Conclave

The 4th 5E For Success Conclave is going to be held on the theme: "From School to Campus to Corporate". Schools, Educational Institutions and corporate houses can join the Conclave as sponsors.

Quiz and Group Discussion for Barak valley Schools & College Extension, School, Public Speaking (College) | In the online event, various students of NE India Schools and Colleges can participate.



10 JAN
Media Conclave

Media Conclave: Media Conclave, Workshops, and the Fund, Talks and Conferences are part of the "Barak Festival 2025". Theme: "One for All, All for One". Media Conclave: Workshops, Seminars, Conferences, and Corporate Houses, Schools, NGOs, and others.



BARAK FESTIVAL 2025
PAINTING CARNIVAL | NE CULTURAL FEST | E-SPORTS

FILM FESTIVAL | EXHIBITION | BOOK CLUB | AWARDS | GUEST | RARE BIRDS | RECORDS

CONTACT: WP: 07213000 19 | info@krcfoundation.org

10-12 JAN
Science Studio

Use a glimpse of Science to see how things work. Class VI-XI | Teachers | School Administrators | Parents

Raw science out of textbooks into real-life experiences of students.

DEC'24-JAN'25
Photography

Online Photography Contest: River Barak | NE India | Art & Culture of NE | NE Culture Real-Time Photography Contest of "Barak Festival 2025"

Barak Festival
Band Night | 10 JAN
Musical Night | 11 JAN



Contact: WP: 07213000 19 | info@krcfoundation.org



10-12 JAN
E-Sports

Full-Blown Demos | CASH PRIZES | Trophy



11 JAN
film festival

Award-Giving Ceremony | Film from Manipur | Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, W & Media Talk | Exhibitions | Meet & Greet



5E SUCCESS
STUDENT INTERNSHIP

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APPLY NOW

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10-12 JAN
Book Bank

Anti-Book Campaign Book Bank | 100 books | 100000 | 100000

Book Club

Meet Authors, Publishers, Read & Discuss, Buy and Sell Books

Painting Carnival

Water Colour painting and Draw-Paint Campaign