



# KRC TIMES

## STAY-ENRICHED



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### PERSPECTIVE

There is only one person you spend your whole life with, and that is you. If you aren't ok with you, there is a problem.

## 4 dead and one critically injured after landslide strikes West Sikkim's Upper Rimbi

**GANGTOK**  
A devastating landslide struck Upper Rimbi in Yangthang Constituency at midnight on Friday, September 12, leaving four people dead and one critically injured.

According to Superintendent of Police (SP) Geyzing, Tshering Sherpa, three people died instantly when the landslide swept through the area. In a swift and high-risk rescue operation, police personnel, with the assistance of local villagers and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) forces, managed to evacuate two women who had sustained serious injuries.

The rescue team was forced to improvise under extreme conditions, building a temporary tree-log bridge across the swollen Hume River to transport the victims to the District Hospital. Despite their efforts, one of the injured women succumbed during treatment, while the other remains in critical condition.

"The terrain and weather posed severe challenges, but our team acted without delay. It was a risky operation, and I am deeply grateful to the local community and SSB personnel who stood with us in this crisis," SP Sherpa said, acknowledging the collective effort behind the rescue mission.

#### WHO SAID WHAT



**Met Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji and congratulated him on winning the Vice Presidential election.**

~ Narendra Modi, PM

#### NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting five states, namely Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar from 13th to 15th September (Saturday to Monday), to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of projects worth Rs 71,850 crore, according to the Prime Minister's Office on Friday.

Prime Minister will visit Mizoram and lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 9000 crore at Aizawl, at around 10 AM. He will also address a public function, according to the statement.

While in Manipur, he will lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 7,300 crore at Churachandpur at around 12:30 PM. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. Further, he will inaugurate various projects worth over Rs 1,200 crore at Imphal, at around 2:30 PM and address a public function.

The Prime Minister will thereafter visit Assam and participate in the celebrations of the 100th birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Bhuben Hazarika in Guwahati, at around 5 PM. He will also address



the gathering on the occasion.

On 14th September, PM Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of major infrastructure and industrial development projects worth over Rs 18,530 crore in Assam. He will lay the foundation stone of various projects at Darrang, at around 11 AM and address a public function. Thereafter, he will inaugurate Assam Bio-ethanol Private Limited, Numaligarh Refinery Plant at Golaghat, at around 1:45 PM. He will also lay the foundation stone of Polypropylene Plant at Golaghat.

On September 15, PM Modi will visit West Bengal and inaugurate

the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference-2025 in Kolkata, at around 9:30 AM.

Thereafter, Prime Minister will visit Bihar and inaugurate the new terminal building of Purnea airport at around 2:45 PM. Further, he will also lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth around Rs 36,000 crore at Purnea and address the gathering on the occasion. He will also launch the National Makhana Board in Bihar.

While in Mizoram, he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 9000 crore at Aizawl. These projects will cater to multiple sectors including Railways, Roadways, Energy, Sports among others.

PM Modi will also flag off three new express trains, Sairang (Aizawl)-Delhi (Anand Vihar Terminal) Rajdhani express, Sairang-Guwahati Express and Sairang-Kolkata Express on this occasion.

"Aizawl will now be directly connected with Delhi through a Rajdhani Express. The Sairang-Guwahati Express will facilitate movement between Mizoram and Assam. Sairang-Kolkata Express will directly connect Mizoram to Kolkata," the

statement read.

In a major boost to road infrastructure, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of multiple road projects, including the Aizawl Bypass Road, Thenzawl-Sialsuk Road and Khankawn-Rongura Road.

Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of Chhimtui River Bridge on the Lawngtlai-Siaha Road, which will provide all-weather connectivity and reduce travel time by two hours. Later on, the foundation stone of Khelo India Multipurpose Indoor Hall for Sports Development will be put. Strengthening the energy infrastructure in the region, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of 30 TMTPA (thousand metric tons per annum) LPG Bottling Plant at Mualkhang in Aizawl.

According to the statement, the PM will lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 7,300 crore at Churachandpur, including the Manipur Urban Roads, drainage and asset management improvement project worth over Rs 3,600 crore; 5 National Highway projects worth more than Rs 2,500 crore; Manipur Infotech Development (MIND) project, Working Women Hostels at 9 locations,

among others.

In Assam, PM Modi will lay foundation stone for various projects, including Darrang Medical College & Hospital and GNM School and B.Sc. Nursing College.

At Numaligarh in Golaghat, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Assam Bioethanol Plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) aimed at promoting clean energy and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. He will also lay the foundation stone of the Polypropylene Plant at Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) adding significant value to Assam's petrochemical sector.

In line with his commitment to a strong, secure and self-reliant India, Prime Minister will inaugurate and address the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference-2025 in Kolkata on 15th September.

Whereas in Bihar, PM will launch the National Makhana Board in Bihar. The Board will promote production and new technology development, strengthen post-harvest management, promote value addition and processing and facilitate market, export and brand development in Makhana, thereby benefiting the Makhana farmers of Bihar and the country.

## PM Modi's Manipur visit "merely symbolic", says Manipur Congress chief



#### IMPHAL

Manipur Congress president Keisham Meghachandra on Friday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the strife-torn state is "merely symbolic" and "not intended to bring peace or ensure justice."

The Prime Minister is set to visit Manipur on Saturday — his first since the outbreak of ethnic violence over

two years ago — and is expected to inaugurate projects worth Rs 8,500 crore.

In a video message, Meghachandra claimed "I take the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as merely symbolic and a show-off. The people, who have been suffering for months, including internally displaced persons staying in relief camps, had expected a concrete roadmap for peace, rehabilitation, and justice."

The state Congress chief also alleged that Modi's visit is hollow.

"It would have been better if they had let it be known that the visit is related to bringing peace and justice. Very upset with the absence of discussions with all stakeholders," the Wangkhem legislator said.

The Congress leader also claimed that the BJP has not properly addressed the prevailing situation.

"We also heard that frustrated people in Churachandpur destroyed banners and cardboard cut-outs installed in connection with the visit of the PM," he said. "There has been no attempt to bring peace, as well as ensure free movement. This visit is not aimed at bringing peace and ensuring justice," Meghachandra said.

The prime minister's visit comes amid repeated criticism by opposition parties for not coming to the state following the ethnic strife between the Kuki and Meitei communities, which has left over 260 people dead and thousands homeless since May 2023.

## 'Never ask journalists to soften their pen': Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma

#### SHILLONG

Conrad Sangma made an unequivocal statement at the Meghalaya Media Meet 2025 that has resonated far beyond the state's borders. The chief minister declared he has never asked a journalist to soften their criticism and never will, emphasising that even the "smallest articles, posts and criticisms" help him make decisions affecting millions of lives.

Speaking in Shillong on September 10, Sangma told the gathering of media professionals that their role is to serve the people and the state, not to please individuals. He urged journalists to never assume he expects them to avoid criticising his administration.

"The media holds immense power, and journalists must always recognise the responsibility that comes with it," Sangma said, addressing concerns about press freedom that have emerged globally. His message comes at a time when media independence faces scrutiny across various democracies.

The chief minister's remarks were part of a broader commitment to journalist welfare. The state government honoured eight veteran journalists with financial support of Rs 1 lakh each during the event. Additionally, Sangma



announced monthly support of Rs 10,000 for senior journalists under the Meghalaya Journalists Welfare Scheme 2024, along with proposed financial assistance of up to Rs 35 lakh. The daylong media meet, organised by the state's Department of Information and Public Relations, brought together prominent policymakers, journalists, and communication experts. The event featured workshops on creative writing and misinformation detection, alongside panel discussions on combating fake news and building media capacity.

Distinguished attendees included BBC South Asia Bureau Chief Jacky Martens, Emmy-nominated journalist Ahmer Khan, and UNICEF India's Chief of Communication Zaftrin Chowdhury.

Information and Public Relations Minister Ampareen Lyngdoh highlighted the theme "From Print

to Pixel," noting how it captures media's evolution while emphasising trust, ethical technology use, and journalistic accountability.

Chief Secretary Donald Wahlang stressed that while technology brings speed and scale to journalism, trust remains the most valuable currency in the profession. Development Commissioner Sampath Kumar emphasised the media's role in policy change, stating that systemic transformation occurs when compelling narratives resonate with people.

Sangma's call for a structured media ecosystem included urging media houses to register with the state's information department for better organisation. He advocated for training programmes to enhance reporting skills, particularly focusing on leveraging technology and artificial intelligence in the evolving media landscape.

## DC Kohima inspects progress of Dimapur-Kohima railway line at Mengujuma

#### KOHIMA

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kohima, B Henok Buchem, NCS, along with a team of district officers, conducted an on-site inspection of the Dimapur-Kohima New Broad Gauge Railway Line project at Mengujuma village on Thursday.

The inspection was joined by officials from North East Frontier Railways (NFR) and various line departments.

The inspection team, which included Revenue Officer Kohima Kevingoto Kulnu, SDO (C) Sechü-Zubza Imliakum Sanglir, Executive Engineer R&B, DPRO Kohima, and senior NFR engineers, visited key construction sites, including tunnel locations and the proposed railway station at Mengujuma.

The NFR team presented a detailed progress report through a PowerPoint presentation,



explaining that the 82.5 km railway line is being constructed in three phases with a completion target of December 2029. However, in line with di-

rectives from the Prime Minister's Office, efforts are underway to advance the completion deadline to December 2028.

A major focus was Tun-

nel No. 10 under the Kohima alignment, the second-longest tunnel in the project at 5.5 km. Engineers highlighted the geological challenges of the re-

gion, noting continuous land movement, and assured that stringent safety protocols and multiple contingency plans were in place. No casualties have been reported so far due to strict adherence to safety standards.

The team also showcased photographs of tunnelling activities, including forepoling and rock bolting, to demonstrate progress on site. During the field visit, officials stressed the need for close coordination between departments such as R&B and NST with the construction company to expedite approach road works for the proposed Mengujuma railway station. DC Buchem assured full administrative support to the project teams and urged contractors to meet the revised deadlines. He commended the engineers and workers for maintaining safety while ensuring quality construction in a geologically sensitive area.

#### GUWAHATI

With electioneering for the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) gaining momentum, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma addressed a massive rally at Bhowraguri under the 6th Kachugaon constituency on September 12.

The Chief Minister campaigned in support of BJP candidate Maheswar Basumatary and made several key remarks aimed at the local electorate.

Sarma expressed confidence that the BJP would secure victory in Kachugaon this time, stressing that while the state government had launched multiple welfare schemes, the common people of BTC had been deprived of their benefits.

"BPF and UPPL governments have ruled BTC, but it is unfortunate that ordinary people have not gained from their governance," he said.

Highlighting the BJP's policies, the Chief Minister pointed out that Bengali Hindus were no longer in detention camps, and that Aadhaar cards had been provided to them. "The law is moving in a way that en-

sures everyone's security. I believe all communities will live without fear," he added.

Taking a sharp dig at the Bodoland Territorial Council administration, Sarma alleged that schemes meant for the people were being siphoned off. "No matter how many schemes we introduce, BTC swallows them. If the BJP comes to power here, we will take the government right to the villages," he asserted.

In a major promise, Sarma announced that every household in BTC would be brought under the Orunodoi scheme once the BJP forms the council government. He also laid out development commitments, declaring that the foundation stone for Bhowraguri College would be laid in the first week of January. Initially, Arts courses will be offered, followed by the introduction of Science streams.

The rally at Bhowraguri reflects the BJP's aggressive push to make inroads in BTC politics, with Sarma positioning his party as the alternative to existing regional powers.



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## GENERATION Z AGAINST OLD ORDER

The two day uprising in Nepal on September 8 and 9 resulting in the ouster of the KPS Oli government following the attacks and burning of the Parliament Building, Supreme Court and the official and private residences of the present and former powerful ministers, was an expression of total revolt by the generation Z in this Himalayan neighbour country of India against the established political system and its symbols in the country's executive, legislature and judiciary.

The uprising in Nepal by the young is different in many respects from the August 2024 developments in Bangladesh and 2022 students revolt in Sri Lanka. In Nepal, it took a mass character in just two days, the trigger being the killing of 19 demonstrators by the police on the first day itself. The death toll has by now reached 25. Further, the anger of the students were of a violent nature burning the offices of all established political parties including the three communist parties and the Nepali Congress. Significantly, in Nepal, both in Kathmandu and the two/three other cities, the school students took part in a big way, especially the girls, many of them belonging to the elite families.

That way, the revolt in Nepal is the revolt of the Instagram, Facebook generation who are completely in a different mindset compared to the ruling elite including the communists. Both the communist parties of Nepal have a strong students organization but they were completely neutralized in the latest uprising as the generation Z revolted as a whole against the official ban on the 26 social media platforms. In fact this ban was the prime reason for the revolt as the generation Z in Nepal are totally enmeshed in their social media life and any interference by the elders in the family or the government, they are not in a mood to tolerate.

The issue of corruption and unemployment came to the focus later when the killing of the movement participants gave a completely new dimension to the revolt by turning it into a movement against the government and the political system as a whole. That was why on the second day on September 9, many seniors joined and the generation Z movement took the character of a national movement. Out of the 2.96 crore population of Nepal, 1.17 crore are below 35 and the age group of 15-24 has 57.6 lakh. This group grew up with insta and facebook and they are the main drivers of the September uprising in Nepal.

If we look at the turbulent politics and economy of Nepal in the last ten years, it will be seen that Nepal has not done too bad in terms of its economic development. Its growth rate has been at the level of 6 per cent in 2025. Though one in five young persons is unemployed, this unemployment issue did never emerge as a big one. Nepalese youth always look for jobs outside. On an average 4 lakh Nepalese leave for jobs outside every year. Similarly, Nepal gets huge remittances from outside and that along with earnings from tourism help the economic growth of the country.

According to World Bank data, Nepal's fiscal indicators are thriving. It remains the country that pays the highest duties on vehicles, similar to Singapore, and has the highest tax-to-gross domestic product (GDP) ratio in South Asia. Social indicators have dramatically improved, with life expectancy moving from 54.77 years in 1990 to nearly 72 years in 2024. Primary school enrolment is close to a hundred per cent, and the literacy rate has increased from 59 per cent in 2000 to 76 per cent in 2024. Poverty has reduced from 25.16 per cent in 2011 to 20.27 per cent in 2023 as per the Nepal Living Standard Survey 2022/23. Remarkably, 81 per cent of Nepalis live in their own homes, and four out of five Nepali families have at least someone working or living abroad. The population has increased by 10 million between 1991 and 2021 – a 50-per cent increase in over three decades.

But the political management of the country has come under sharp criticism in the last ten years of rule by the established political parties in Nepal. In this period, the ruling power was limited to three/four political leaders and their families and friends prospered giving the impression of all round corruption. Among the school students, the nepokids discussion became common. The September movement by the school students was also a sort of expression of their wrath against the nepo kids meaning the children of the ruling families.

Three familiar political leaders – K P Sharma Oli, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Sher Bahadur Deuba – have been playing the game of musical chairs. Oli of the Communist Party (CPN) of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) has been able to stay at the helm, splitting and uniting the communist parties. He has become prime minister for the third time at the age of 72 years. He has managed to sideline his two key opponents within his party by pushing them to split and forming a new party. He continues to expel people who confront him.

Dahal 'Prachanda' rose to prominence leading a violent insurgency. He became prime minister for the first time in 2008, winning the highest number of seats for the CPN (Maoist Centre) in the constituent assembly. He became prime minister twice after that. The 70-year-old Dahal has been part of different coalitions and is accused of proliferating his family's involvement in a dynastic manner. He is a big manipulator and manages to stay at the top.

Deuba, the oldest of the trio, is 79 years. He has become the prime minister five times. A shrewd politician, he knows how to look after his family's interests. He split with the Nepali Congress to start his faction and then reunited to lead the party since 2016. He pushed his opponent, Ram Chandra Paudel, to become the President and kept the Koirala clan at bay by playing different family factions against one another. He has no political scruples. He can align with anyone to get the highest position.

The turmoil in Nepal is still on. The Nepalese army chief and also the President of the country are trying to ease tensions and hold negotiations with the student agitators. The demonstrators have no ready programme.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Once you learn patience, your options suddenly expand.”

— Robert Greene

# CONNECTING MIZORAM



ASHWINI VAISHNAW

For many decades, the North East was considered a distant frontier, waiting for development. Our brothers and sisters living in North Eastern states carried aspirations of progress, but the infrastructure and opportunities they deserved remained out of reach.

All this changed when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi initiated the Act East policy. From a distant frontier, North East is now recognized as a front-runner.

Peace, progress and prosperity This transformation has been made possible through record investments in railways, roads, airports, and digital connectivity. Peace accords are bringing stability. People are benefiting from government schemes.

For the first time since independence, the North Eastern region is seen as central to India's development story.

Consider the investments in railways for instance. Railway budget allocation for the region has increased fivefold compared to the 2009-14. This fiscal year alone, Rs 10,440 crore has been allocated.

Total budgetary allocation since 2014 to 2025 is Rs 62,477 Crore. Today, railway projects worth Rs 77,000 crore are underway. Never before has North East witnessed such record levels of investment.

Mizoram's first Mizoram is part of this growth story. The state is known for its rich culture, love for sports, and beautiful hills. Yet, for decades, it remained distant from the mainstream of connectivity.

Road and air connectivity was limited. Railways had not reached its capital. Aspirations were alive, but the arteries of growth were missing. That is not the case anymore.

The inauguration of the Bairabi-Sairang railway line tomorrow by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, marks a historic milestone for Mizoram. Built at a cost of over ₹8,000 crore, this 51 kilometre project will connect Aizawl to the national

railway network for the first time.

Along with this, the Prime Minister will also flag off three new train services from Sairang to Delhi (Rajdhani Express), Kolkata (Mizoram express) and Guwahati (Aizawl Intercity).

This railway line passes through difficult terrain. Railway engineers have built 143 bridges and 45 tunnels to connect Mizoram. One of the bridges is taller than the Qutub Minar. In fact, in this terrain, like in all other Himalayan lines, the railway line is practically built as a bridge followed by a tunnel followed by a bridge and so on.

Himalayan Tunnelling Method The North Eastern Himalayas are young mountains, with large sections comprising soft soil and organic material. Constructing tunnels and building bridges in these conditions presented extraordinary challenges. Traditional methods fail because the loose soil can't support the challenges of construction.

To overcome this, our engineers developed a new and ingenious approach, now known as Himalayan Tunnelling Method. In this technique, the soil is first stabilised and then solidified to carry out tunneling and construction.

This enabled us to complete one of the most difficult projects in the region.

Another major challenge was ensuring the stability of bridges at great heights in a region prone to seismic activity. Here too, special designs and advanced techniques were deployed to make the bridges resilient and secure.

This home-grown innovation is a model for similar terrains worldwide. Thousands of engineers, workers, and local communities came together to make this possible.

When India decides to build, it builds smart!!

Benefits to the region Railways is considered as the engine of growth. It brings new markets closer and creates trade opportunities. For the people of Mizoram, the new railway line will improve the living conditions.

With the introduction of Rajdhani

Express in Mizoram, the travel time between Aizawl and Delhi region will be reduced by 8 hours. The new Express trains will also make travel between Aizawl, Kolkata, and Guwahati faster and easier.

Farmers, especially those engaged in bamboo cultivation and horticulture, will be able to transport their produce faster and at lower cost to wider markets.

The transport of essential commodities, such as food grains and fertilizers, will be easier. Tourism too will get a boost, as Mizoram's natural beauty becomes more accessible. This will create opportunities for local businesses and youth.

This project will also bring better access to education, healthcare, and employment for the people.

For Mizoram, this connectivity promises all of that and more. From now on, Aizawl will no longer be seen as distant.

Development across the nation Railways across the country is seeing record transformation. More than 100 Amrit Bharat stations were inaugurated recently, with 1200 more in pipeline. The stations will provide passengers modern facilities and cities new hubs of growth.

More than 150 high-speed Vande Bharat trains are setting new benchmarks in passenger convenience. At the same time, electrification of almost the entire network is making it greener.

Since 2014, 35,000 kilometres of tracks have been laid. This is more than what was achieved in the previous six decades combined. In the last year alone, 3,200 kilometres of new railway lines were added.

This pace of development and transformation is visible in the North East too.

Vision for North East The Prime Minister said, "For us, EAST means – Empower, Act, Strengthen and Transform." These words capture the essence of his approach to the North East.

Decisive action on multiple fronts has ensured the transformation of the region. Large projects such as the Tata's semiconductor facility in Assam, hydel power projects like Tato in Arunachal Pradesh, and

iconic infrastructure like the Bogibel railcum-road bridge are reshaping the region.

Alongside these, the establishment of AIIMS at Guwahati and 10 new greenfield airports have strengthened healthcare and connectivity.

Frontier to Frontrunner

For decades, the people of Mizoram were told to wait for roads, schools, and railways. That wait is now over. These projects are a testament to our Prime Minister's vision towards North East i.e once considered a frontier, now to be hailed as front-runner of India's growth.

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

**India has been ranked 118 in the World Happiness Report. Totalitarian Saudi Arabia is 32, Inflation wrecked Venezuela 82, Ruined Nepal 92, Sunk Palestine 108, Begging bowl Pakistan 109, War torn Ukraine 111.**

**Modi has made us peaceful, safe, stable, but unhappy. He must resign.**

~ Anand Ranganathan, Author



## When Youth Rise in Anger Lessons from Nepal for India

MAJ GEN SANJEEV DOGRA (RETD)

The streets of Kathmandu have been heaving with discontent. In the last few days, Nepal's youth, tired of corruption and suffocated by a sudden social media ban, poured onto the roads in their thousands. What began as peaceful protest swelled into a nationwide movement. Within days, the government crumbled, unable to withstand the storm of frustration.

This is not the first time South Asia has witnessed such upheaval. Only last year, Bangladesh too saw its students and young professionals at the heart of a revolt that eventually toppled its elected government. In both cases, the anger was not manufactured in a day. It had been simmering for years, fed by unemployment, inequality, corruption, and a deep sense of betrayal. The ban on social media in Nepal was just the final spark.

For India, these images from our neighbourhood cannot be ignored. We too have a young and restless population, connected digitally and impatient for change. The question that we must confront is simple: could this happen here? And if so, what lessons must we draw now before it is too late?

The Volcano of Discontent Behind the unrest in Nepal lay forces all too familiar to us: lack of jobs, lack of dignity, and a sense that leaders had stopped listening. In Bangladesh, the trigger was anger at job quotas and nepotism, but the deeper frustration was again the same. The youth felt their future was being stolen.

India is not immune to these dynamics. We too face high youth unemployment, rising aspirations, and widening inequality. In many towns and cities, ordinary citizens see their daily lives burdened by civic failures.

Every monsoon, drains overflow and roads crumble. In hill states, reckless construction without respect for nature triggers landslides and cloudbursts, washing away lives and livelihoods. Bridges collapse within years of being built, roads develop cracks after a single rain, and entire neighbourhoods choke because of poor planning and corruption.

These everyday failures do not just inconvenience people. They accumulate as silent grievances, eroding trust. The young, who are most affected, ask why those in power seem insulated while they must live with flooding streets, garbage piles, and disappearing green cover. If this anger festers, it can one day take the form of collective revolt.

The Social Media Storm What makes today's situation different from the past is the power of social media. For the youth, these platforms are more than entertainment; they are identity and voice. In Nepal, the sudden ban on social media felt like an attack on the very spirit of a generation that breathes through digital spaces.

Social media, however, cuts both ways. It can be a force for good, spreading awareness, connecting innovators, enabling social campaigns. But it can also spread rumours, manipulate emotions, and amplify anger. In the hands of responsible citizens, it is a tool; in the hands of manipulators, it becomes a weapon.

For India, the lesson is clear: social media must not be allowed to become a battlefield of misinformation. Youth must learn to question, verify, and resist being swept away by viral anger.

Why India Has Been Different So Far India has seen large youth-led protests before. From

the JP movement of the 1970s to the Mandal agitation of the 1990s, and more recently the farmers' protests and campus agitations, the streets have echoed with young voices. Yet unlike Nepal or Bangladesh, these movements did not topple governments.

The reason lies in our institutions. Frequent elections, an active judiciary, a noisy media, and federal diversity act as safety valves. They absorb dissent and give it space to breathe. But these safety valves are not indestructible. If unemployment deepens, inequality widens, and corruption continues unchecked, even India could face a tipping point.

The Glue of Cohesion What then is the answer? The best insurance against unrest is not force, but cohesion. A society bound together by trust and shared values can withstand storms.

Cohesion begins at home. Families must remain strong, not just materially but morally. Parents must listen to their children, instill patience and balance, and guide them away from recklessness. A youth who feels anchored at home is less vulnerable to manipulation outside.

Cohesion must then extend into society. In our rush for modernity, we often forget the traditional festivals and community activities that once bound people together. When Maharashtrians celebrate Ganpati with collective joy, when Punjabis gather for Baisakhi, or when Tamils mark Pongal, society renews its bonds. These festivals are more than rituals. They are rehearsals in unity.

Perhaps we need more such platforms, even new pan-Indian ones. Imaginational days of service, when citizens across states join in cleanliness drives, tree planting,

or community sports. Imagine food festivals that showcase local cuisines in towns across India, creating bridges of taste and culture. When people eat together, work together, and play together, divisions shrink. Cohesion grows not in slogans but in shared experience.

The Responsibility of Leaders No cohesion can survive, however, if political leaders themselves send the wrong message. When ordinary citizens see roads collapsing after one rain while leaders live in luxury, when corruption scandals dominate headlines, the perception of betrayal deepens.

Leaders must lead by example. They must live simply, govern transparently, and speak honestly. They must tackle unemployment with seriousness, investing in skills, entrepreneurship, and industries of the future. They must protect the environment with care, for nature's fury in the form of cloudbursts and landslides is not just a natural disaster but also a man-made consequence of neglect.

Above all, governments must communicate wisely. Banning platforms or silencing voices only fuels mistrust. Dialogue, empathy, and explanation are far more effective tools than censorship.

The Role of Parents, Teachers, and Society While leaders carry heavy responsibility, they cannot act alone. Parents and teachers must step forward too. Teachers must not only deliver lessons but shape citizens. They must teach critical thinking, respect for facts, and the ability to debate without hostility. Schools must become training grounds for civic pride by organizing cleanliness drives, cultural events, and social service that show children the joy of collective action.

## PM Modi to meet violence-hit families in Churachandpur before Kangla address in Imphal

IMPHAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's itinerary for his Manipur visit has been finalised, marking his first trip to the state since ethnic violence broke out more than two years ago.

Officials said the prime minister will begin his tour in Churachandpur (CCpur), where he is scheduled to lay foundation stones for development projects and meet people affected by the violence. From there, he will travel to Imphal, where he will address a public gathering at Kangla Fort and inaugurate and lay foundation stones for multiple initiatives.

Manipur Chief Secretary, addressing a press conference, said the prime minister is expected to reach Kangla



around 2.30 pm after interacting with some displaced families in the valley areas.

"The Honourable Prime Minister

will be inaugurating various development projects within and outside the state belonging to Manipur. The total projects for which foundation stones are being put are totalling to Rs 7,300 crore, and the projects which are being inaugurated are worth Rs 1,200 crore," he said.

He added that these initiatives underscore Modi's "continued commitment and dedication for the development and welfare of the state," urging the people of Manipur to welcome the prime minister and participate in large numbers. Meanwhile, Imphal wore a festive look on Friday as billboards, banners, and welcome gates were put up across the city to mark the visit. A massive gate, stretching over 20 feet and emblazoned with "Welcome Shri Narendra

Modi ji," has been erected near the BJP state headquarters along the route from Imphal airport to Kangla Fort. Additional billboards highlighting the projects have also been installed in Sanjenthong and near the Nupi Lan complex.

The seven-kilometre stretch from the airport to Kangla Fort has been fortified with wooden barricades, while workers have been deployed to clean and repaint road medians.

The visit comes against the backdrop of mounting criticism from opposition parties, who have repeatedly targeted the prime minister for not visiting Manipur since May 2023, when clashes between the Kuki and Meitei communities plunged the state into ethnic strife. The violence has claimed more than 260 lives and displaced thousands.

## PAPPM Welcomes Prime Minister Modi to Manipur, Urges Action on Key Issues

IMPHAL

The People's Alliance for Peace and Progress, Manipur (PAPPM) has extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his visit to the state, expressing confidence in his leadership and vision for a peaceful and united India. In a statement issued by PAPPM president M. Bobby Meetei, the organization reiterated several longstanding concerns it has highlighted in earlier memoranda to the Prime Minister. These include a crackdown on illegal immigration, eradication of poppy cultivation and drug trafficking, protection of reserved and protected forests, and firm action against divisive political agendas.

PAPPM emphasized that unchecked immigration threatens the demographic balance and stability of Manipur, while drug-linked activities continue to fund militancy and undermine the future of the youth. The group also called for urgent steps to prevent illegal encroachment of forests, warning of the

environmental dangers posed by deforestation, landslides, and floods.

On the political front, PAPPM urged the Prime Minister to isolate elements that promote ethnic polarization, distort history, and pose a threat to Manipur's territorial integrity and the unity of the nation. "Addressing these issues is not only vital for peaceful coexistence among all communities in Manipur, but also for safeguarding India's national security and sovereignty," the statement said.

The organization expressed hope that the Prime Minister's visit would pave the way for decisive action and strengthen the efforts of the Manipur Government in eradicating drugs, protecting the environment, and preserving the cultural and historical heritage of the state.

"The people of Manipur look forward with hope that under the Prime Minister's guidance, the state will move towards lasting peace, harmony, and progress," Meetei added.

## Problems arise in diversity without connection: Mizoram Governor

AIZAWL

Mizoram Governor General (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh underlined the complexities of Myanmar's internal divisions while emphasizing the close cultural and social bonds that exist across the India-Myanmar border.

Speaking to media, Governor Singh noted that Myanmar has witnessed recurring political instability from the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi to the military junta, and now, fresh elections on the horizon. "There are internal differences in Myanmar because first there was Aung San Suu Kyi, then the military junta came... Now elections are going to be held again," he remarked.

He observed that Myanmar's diversity, marked by multiple tribal communities, often results in tensions when full inclusion is lacking. "In diversity, when you do not connect with anyone completely, then problems arise," Singh stated.

The Governor further highlighted the strong ties between border communities in Mizoram and Myanmar, where tribal populations share common ancestry and traditions. "We have good relations with Myanmar. In our border area, the tribal community is the same on both sides. People come to our side for shelter when there is some problem on the other side," he added.

## Pramod Boro takes campaign to Kokrajhar market, calls for peaceful elections



GUWAHATI

Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) chief and United People's Party, Liberal (UPPL) candidate Pramod Boro hit the campaign trail on September 11 at Serfanguri market under the Dotma constituency in Kokrajhar district, where he is contesting in the

upcoming polls.

Boro, accompanied by a large group of UPPL workers and supporters, met vendors and shopkeepers, urging them to support the party.

He said the UPPL's agenda is centred on peace and development, adding that the people's satisfaction with the last five years of governance has strengthened his confidence in securing victory.

Calling Dotma one of the most important constituencies among the 40 in the BTR, Boro told reporters he is optimistic about the outcome. He stressed that the region has witnessed progress during his party's rule.

Addressing recent incidents of violence in Baokhungri constituency, Boro appealed to all political parties to maintain peace during the election period. He underlined the importance of democratic participation free from conflict to ensure a fair contest.

## Spear Corps Commander reviews security in Manipur, engages with veterans and troops in Churachandpur

CHURACHANDPUR

Lieutenant General Abhijit S Pendharkar, General Officer Commanding of Spear Corps, undertook a comprehensive visit to Churachandpur District as part of his wider review of the security landscape across Manipur on Thursday, said a press release from Assam Rifles.

The visit encompassed key locations including Imphal, Bishnupur, and forward areas along the Indo-Myanmar border, reflecting the Corps' continued commitment to maintaining operational readiness and fostering inter-agency coordination.

During his tour, the Corps Commander interacted with a combined strength of 61 individuals comprising Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris, and serving personnel of the Assam Rifles and Indian Army.

The gathering provided a



meaningful platform to acknowledge the contributions of veterans and their families, while reinforcing the enduring bond between the armed forces and the communities they serve.

Senior Ex-Servicemen were felicitated in recognition of their service, and a token of

appreciation was presented as a gesture of respect and gratitude. The Ex-Servicemen expressed heartfelt appreciation for the interaction, which reaffirmed the respect and recognition accorded to their service and sacrifices.

Lt Gen Pendharkar also engaged with personnel from

the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Manipur Police, and other security agencies deployed across the state.

His interactions focused on assessing the prevailing security dynamics, particularly in sensitive border regions, and commending the collective efforts of all ranks for their professionalism, dedication, and high morale under challenging conditions. The visit underscored inclusive approach of the Indian Army as well as Assam Rifles to security management and its sustained outreach to veterans and local communities. The Spear Corps Commander's engagements across Manipur reflect a holistic approach to security, unity, and institutional solidarity—anchored in professionalism and mutual respect.

## Meghalaya's externally aided projects jump nearly tenfold to Rs 11,324 crores: CM Sangma

SHILLONG

The value of externally aided projects (EAPs) in Meghalaya has surged nearly tenfold, reaching Rs 11,324 crore in 2025 from Rs 1,300 crore in 2018, Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said during Assembly proceedings on September 11.

Sangma attributed the dramatic increase to the efficient implementation of projects by the state government. "The overall execution of different EAPs has been going very well, and the results have been significant," he said during question hour.

He explained that EAPs consist of a 72 per cent grant component, reimbursed by the Centre, and a 28 per cent contribution from the state. Sangma empha-



sized that project implementation is transparent, with details available on the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA) and Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA)

websites. Reports from MBMA have already been tabled in the Assembly, while MBDA reports are expected soon.

The chief minister also announced plans to align MLA

schemes and the Special Rural Works Programme (SRWP) with MBMA projects to maximise impact. "We are working closely with MLAs and other stakeholders to ensure benefits reach the people," he added.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition Mukul Sangma raised concerns over not being invited to the inauguration of a bridge in his constituency in 2022, funded through the MGNREGS and MLA schemes. He highlighted the need for better convergence of MLA schemes with other programs and pointed out coordination gaps between district administrations and legislators. Conceding a communication lapse, the chief minister assured the House that measures would be taken to avoid similar situations in the future.

## Tripura introduces common uniform policy for government schools

AGARTALA

Tripura has announced a new standardised uniform policy for students in government schools, aiming to promote equality, discipline, and a unified identity across the education system.

The directive, issued by the state government, covers Classes I to XII and outlines three separate uniform categories. All Vidyajyoti Schools will share a common uniform, PM-SHRI Schools will maintain a uniform of their own design, and the remaining government schools will adopt another single pattern and colour scheme.

Four institutions have been exempted from the rule: Shishu Bihar H.S. School, Sukhamoy HS School, and Umakanta Academy in West Tripura district, along with PM-SHRI Radha Kishore Institution in Unakoti district.

The policy will come into full effect from the next academic session. For the cur-

rent year, schools are permitted to use both old and new uniforms to allow families and institutions time to adjust.

As part of the Samagra Shiksha scheme, students in Classes I to VIII from specific categories receive centrally distributed uniforms. The state has already started providing the newly approved uniforms to these groups, with distribution expected to conclude soon.

The Education Department has directed District Education Officers to oversee implementation. Principals, headmasters, and teachers-in-charge are responsible for enforcing the guidelines, while officials have been instructed to monitor compliance and report progress.

According to the government, the step is designed to reduce disparity among students, foster discipline, and strengthen the collective identity of state-run schools.

## Railways grants new train stops in Assam after persistent public demand

GUWAHATI

The Railway Ministry has officially approved new train stoppages at three strategic stations in Assam on an experimental basis, responding to persistent public demand for improved connectivity in the Lower Assam and Bodoland regions.

The approved stoppages will benefit Goreswar, Gossaigaon Hat, and Chautara stations, with five major express trains now scheduled to halt at these locations. This decision follows repeated representations from local communities, highlighting the urgent need for improved rail connectivity.

According to official railway documents dated September 9, 2025, the Ministry of Railways has sanctioned stoppages for the Guwahati-Murkeong Lachit Express at Goreswar station, while both Howrah-Dibrugarh Kamrup Express trains will stop at Goreswar and Gossaigaon Hat. The Kamakhya-Anand Vihar North East Express and New Jalpaiguri-Guwa-



hati Vande Bharat Express will halt at Gossaigaon Hat, and the Alipurduar-Guwahati Sifhung Express will stop at Chautara.

The railway circular emphasises that "a close watch should be kept

at the sale of tickets at the stations for review" and instructs officials to "give wide publicity" and "ensure compliance."

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed gratitude

for the prompt response, tweeting: "Grateful to @RailMinIndia for promptly replying to my request of train stoppages and officially approving new train stoppages at Goreswar, Gossaigaon Hat, and Chautara stations on an experimental basis."

The Chief Minister had earlier written to railway authorities, stating: "There has been a persistent public demand for providing stoppage of certain important trains at Goreswar Railway Station. In particular, the people of the region have strongly requested the stoppage of Lachit Express and Kamrup Express at Goreswar."

The initiative addresses long-standing connectivity issues in the region. As noted in official correspondence, "Enhanced train access at Goreswar, Gossaigaon, and Fakiragram Choutara will not only facilitate ease of travel but will also contribute to regional growth, trade, education, and healthcare access."

Local stakeholders and community leaders had consistently raised demands for these stoppages, emphasising their social and economic importance. The new halts are expected to significantly improve connectivity for lakhs of passengers across the Lower Assam and Bodoland regions.

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# Trump's tariffs hurting India, people losing jobs: Shashi Tharoor

SINGAPORE

Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Friday said the tariffs imposed by the US has impacted India with people already losing jobs, even as he lashed out at American President Donald Trump for being "mercurial" in nature and not honouring conventional standards of diplomatic behaviour.

US has imposed a 50 per cent tariff, including 25 per cent as penalty for buying Russian oil, on shipments from India.

India needs to diversify export markets to mitigate the impact of tariffs, Tharoor said, adding that 1.35 lakh people have lost jobs in gems and jewellery business in Surat and in seafood and manufacturing sectors.

"Mr Trump is a very mercurial individual, and the American system gives the President an amazing amount of leeway," Tharoor said while replying to a query related to Indo-US relationship and imposition of tariffs, at a conference organised by CREDAI, India's apex industry body for real estate sector.

Continuing with his opinion about Trump, Tharoor said, "Even though there have been 44 or 45 presidents before him, no one has ever seen this kind of behaviour coming down from the White House."

The Congress leader described Trump as an "unusual president" by every yardstick and said the US President certainly does not honour the conventional standards of diplomatic behaviour. "I mean, have you ever heard any world leader openly saying that he deserves a Noble peace prize. It never happened before. Have you heard of any world leader saying things like, 'oh, all the countries in the world want to come and kiss my ass,'" Tharoor said.

"Have you heard of any

world leader who has basically said, India and Russia have dead economies. I don't care if they go down the drain together," he said, adding that this was not the kind of language being ever heard from any head of government.

"So Trump is unusual, and I would beg you not to judge our performance by his behaviour," the Congress leader said.

On the impact of tariff, Tharoor said the truth is that the tariffs have had a very very negative impact on India.

"Already, people are losing jobs. 1.35 lakh people in Surat have been laid off in the Gems and Jewellery business," he said, adding that there are potential job losses in the seafood and manufacturing sector.

Stating that the tariff was hurting the Indian economy, he said, "I don't want anyone to have any illusions that we can just wash it up."

"Tharoor said the exports of many products became unviable because of the initial 25 per cent tariff and the additional penalty of 25 per cent has made it virtually impossible to enter US market with Indian competitors having lower tariffs."

The Congress leader said that India has no choice but to tighten its belt and move on.

"We are finding it very difficult to get into the American market. And I am pleased to say that we are actually negotiating knowing very well that we need some access to America," he said, adding that there are possibilities of reduction in the initial basic 25 per cent tariff imposed by the US.

"The imposition of additional 25 per cent is not tariff. It is actually sanctions and it is a sanction against us for buying oil from Russia. But that's totally unfair, because China is importing more oil and gas from Russia," the Congress leader said.

Tharoor said the US should have uniform policy for every country which buys oil from Russia.

"This entire sanction policy seems to be completely bizarre and unsustainable. But, anyway, until that sanction is removed, however successfully we negotiate a basic trade deal, we still have an enormous problem," he observed.

Tharoor said there is a need to diversify export markets and felt that the recent trade agreement with UK would boost India's exports.

Apart from exploring other export markets, he said, "We also have to diversify our lines of political communication to other countries. We can't just afford to sit there and say we have no other option," he said.

Tharoor mentioned that Indian Prime Minister has gone to China recently and Russian President is coming to India later this year.

"We are essentially showing a serious intent at least to move away from confrontation conversation with China. Even though we've had some very, very tough times in that relationship, I think we will find ourselves trying to open up very much more for China than we have done in the last 5-6 years," he said.

On Russia, Tharoor said the relationship was always reasonably stable and it might become "warmer" now.

The Congress leader advocated that India should find common cause with European countries and try to create an Indo-European pole, which would have some clout and heft in the world. More than 1,000 delegates, including real estate developers and consultants, are attending a three-day conference CREDAI-NATCON here in Singapore.

# Non-confrontational, rooted in RSS: C P Radhakrishnan begins new chapter as Vice President

NEW DELHI

Named after first Vice President S Radhakrishnan and strongly rooted in the RSS and the BJP, Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan brings with him a rich political and administrative experience as the 15th vice president of India, which his supporters believe will also prove handy in his role as the ex-officio chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Seen as a soft-spoken and non-confrontational leader, the 67-year-old Radhakrishnan took oath on Friday. He succeeds Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned as vice president on July 21, taking everyone by surprise.

Radhakrishnan is the third leader from Tamil Nadu to occupy the coveted post.

Dhankhar was known for his frequent run-ins with the Opposition, and had even faced an impeachment notice from them.

Described as a 'Pachai Tamizhan' (true-blue Tamil) by well-wishers, Radhakrishnan was serving as the governor of Maharashtra when he was named as the vice presidential nominee of the BJP-led NDA.

On Tuesday, when he was elected as the vice president, his mother Janaki Ammal fondly recalled the story behind his name.

"When my son was born, the then President Radhakrishnan was in office. He was a teacher, and I too was a teacher. In his memory, I named my son after him. At that time, my husband looked at me and asked, 'are you giving this name because you want your son to become the President one day?'"

After 62 years, just as my husband had said, it has come true," she had told reporters in Tamil Nadu.

Radhakrishnan on Tuesday described his election to the second-highest Constitutional post as a victory of the nationalistic ideology and vowed to work towards making India a developed nation by 2047. He won the vice presidential election by bagging 452 votes, while the



opposition candidate, B Sudershan Reddy, polled 300 votes.

"The other side camp (opposition alliance) said that this (election) is an ideological fight, but from the voting pattern, we understand that the nationalistic ideology has emerged victorious," Radhakrishnan said in his first public remarks after the win. "It is a victory for every Indian; we all have to work together. If we have to develop Viksit Bharat by 2047, which means we should not do politics in everything, now we will have to concentrate on development," he had said.

A two-term member of the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore during the tenure of prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Radhakrishnan came close to becoming a Union minister, but had to lose out to fellow Tamilian Pon Radhakrishnan in 1998 after some confusion over his name by the then floor managers of the BJP.

Radhakrishnan joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as a teenager and rose through the ranks in the organisation and later

in the BJP, gaining acceptability in the party and the state.

A member of the socially dominant and economically prosperous Kongu Vellalar Gounder community, he became the secretary of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit in 1996 and served as the party's state unit president between 2003 and 2006.

An avid sportsperson, Radhakrishnan was a college champion in table tennis and a long-distance runner.

He also enjoys cricket and volleyball. Radhakrishnan is considered an untainted leader with rich political and administrative experience for the vice president's office and this would also prove useful as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

"Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji has rich experience as MP and Governor of various states. His Parliamentary interventions were always incisive. During his gubernatorial tenures, he focused on addressing challenges faced by common citizens."

These experiences ensured that he has vast knowledge of legislative

and Constitutional matters.

I am confident he will be an inspiring vice president," Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said after the NDA chose Radhakrishnan as the vice presidential candidate.

The Tamil Nadu leader is said to be held in high esteem across party lines in his state, resulting in the BJP giving him multiple gubernatorial assignments in Jharkhand, Telangana, Maharashtra and Puducherry.

Radhakrishnan's candidature also seeks to disarm the Opposition of a key political narrative, as he is the first OBC leader from South India to be named for the vice-president's office.

An official profile circulated by the NDA projects Radhakrishnan as a leader who is eminent, knowledgeable and untainted by any legal accusations.

Radhakrishnan's political innings started with his association with organisations such as the RSS and the Jan Sangh.

He took up student politics and has since used politics as a medium to serve the people.

Radhakrishnan's track record of holding electoral, organisational and constitutional responsibilities shows that he is set to create history as the vice president of India.

He was sworn in as the governor of Maharashtra on July 31, 2024.

Before this, he served as the governor of Jharkhand for nearly one-and-a-half years.

Born on October 20, 1957, at Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Starting as an RSS swayamsevak at the age of 16, he became a state executive committee member of the Bharatiya Janasangh in 1974.

Between 2004 and 2007, Radhakrishnan served as the Tamil Nadu BJP president.

In this role, he undertook a 19,000-km 'Rath Yatra' that lasted for 93 days.

# INTERNATIONAL

## France sends jets to Poland, UK ramps up sanctions in a signal to Russia not to escalate



WARSAW

France said Friday it's deploying fighter jets to Poland and the UK announced fresh sanctions targeting Russia's oil revenues and war machine as Europe's first, measured steps to Russia's drone incursion into Poland aimed to send a signal to Moscow that any further aggression won't go unchecked.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he would deploy three advanced Rafale fighter jets to help protect Poland's airspace and NATO's eastern flank

to fulfill a commitment he made to Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. He said the deployment was discussed with both NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"The security of the European continent is our top priority. We will not yield to Russia's growing intimidation," Macron posted on X.

Britain's new sanctions include bans on 70 vessels that the U.K. says is part of Russia's "shadow fleet" that transports Russian oil

in defiance of sanctions already in place. Some 30 individuals and companies — including Chinese and Turkey-based firms — have also been sanctioned for their part in supplying Russia with electronics, chemicals, explosives and other weapons components.

The new sanctions came as British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper made her first trip to Kyiv Friday after her appointment as a week ago following Starmer's Cabinet shake-up.

Cooper said her visit is a

demonstration of solidarity with Ukraine which faces a tenfold missile and drone Russian assault from a year ago.

"The UK will not stand idly by as Putin continues his barbaric invasion of Ukraine," Cooper said, noting what she said was the Russian president's "complete disregard for sovereignty" by sending drones in to NATO airspace.

"International action to increase economic pressure on Russia and to cut off critical cash flows which he desperately needs to pay for this illegal war is vital."

Poland's Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski was also visiting Kyiv on Friday. His Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha posted on X that the two officials would discuss "shared security, Ukraine's EU and NATO accession, and pressure on Moscow." Meanwhile, Poland's Defense Ministry said it will work with Ukraine to train personnel on anti-drone defense.

Wednesday's multiple Russian drone strike on Polish soil rattled Europe's leaders who saw it as a deliberate provocation and forced them to confront long-standing fears that Russia's three-year war on Ukraine could precipitate a wider conflict. It also compelled NATO allies to take a closer look at the means at their disposal to counter any further threats.

U.S.-led efforts to steer Moscow and Kyiv toward a peace settlement have so far failed to get traction.

Meanwhile, Tusk, the Polish prime minister, dismissed U.S. President Donald Trump's suggestion that the drone incursion into Poland may have been "a mistake."

"We would also wish that the drone attack on Poland was a mistake," Tusk wrote on X. "But it wasn't. And we know it."

## Israel PM vows 'there will be no Palestinian state, this place belongs to us'



JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Thursday that there would be no Palestinian state, speaking at a signing ceremony for a major settlement project in the occupied West Bank.

"We are going to fulfil our promise that there will be no Palestinian state, this place belongs to us," Netanyahu said at the event in Maale Adumim, an Israeli settlement just east of Jerusalem. "We will safeguard our heritage, our land and our security... We are going to double the city's population." The event was streamed live by his office.

Israel has long had ambitions to build on the roughly 12 square kilometre (five square mile) tract of land known as E1, but the plan had been stalled for years in the face of international opposition.

The site sits between Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Maale Adumim, near routes connecting the north and south of the Palestinian territory.

Last month, Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich backed plans to build around 3,400 homes on the ultra-sensitive parcel of land.

His announcement drew condemnation, with UN chief Antonio Guterres saying the settlement would effectively cleave the West Bank in two and pose an "existential threat" to a contiguous Palestinian state.

All of Israel's settlements in the West Bank, occupied since 1967, are considered illegal under international law, regardless of whether they have Israeli planning permission.

Several Western governments, including Britain and France, have announced they

intend to recognise the State of Palestine at the United Nations later this month.

Britain has said it will take the step if Israel fails to agree to a ceasefire in the devastating Gaza war, triggered by Palestinian militant group Hamas's October 2023 attack.

Far-right Israeli ministers have in recent months openly called for Israel's annexation of the territory.

Israeli NGO Peace Now, which monitors settlement activity in the West Bank, said last week that infrastructure work in E1 could begin within a few months, and housing construction within about a year. It said the E1 plan was "deadly for the future of Israel and for any chance of achieving a peaceful two-state solution".

Excluding Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem, the West Bank is home to around three million Palestinians, as well as about 500,000 Israeli settlers.

## INTEGRATION OF DRONE TECHNOLOGY IN TACTICAL OPERATIONS HELD DURING EX SIYOM PRAHAR



The Indian Army successfully conducted EXERCISE SIYOM PRAHAR from 8 to 10 Sept 2025, a major field training exercise aimed at validating the employment of drone technology in modern tactical operations.

Organised under realistic battlefield conditions in the North-Eastern state, the exercise marked a significant step forward in operational preparedness by integrating drones seamlessly across both tactical and operational depths. The scope of employment extended

surveillance and battlefield reconnaissance to target acquisition and precision strike, thereby underscoring the transformative role of drones in enhancing combat effectiveness.

The central focus of the exercise was the development and validation of new Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) suited for future battlefields. These included innovative methods for integrating drone inputs with conventional firepower, refining joint targeting processes, and ensuring rapid decision-making in fluid combat scenarios. The exercise also highlight-



from persistent



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ed the importance of adaptability and synergy between traditional combat arms and emerging technological enablers.

Through Exercise Siyom Prahar, the Indian Army reaffirmed its

enduring commitment to remain at the forefront of military innovation. By blending cutting-edge technologies such as unmanned aerial systems with proven war-fighting skills, the Army continues to en-

sure that it is prepared to meet evolving challenges across the spectrum of conflict.

The outcomes of the exercise provide valuable lessons for operational integration, force multipliers, and future employment concepts. Most importantly, Exercise Siyom Prahar showcased the Army's resolve to harness technology as a decisive factor in securing operational superiority, thereby enhancing overall combat readiness and ensuring it remains future-ready and combat capable.

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BOOK CLUB | WORKSHOP | GUEST | MAIN EVENT | CONCLAVE

**APPLY NOW**

**10-12 JAN**  
**Science Studio**  
Real glimpse of Science to its new heights. Class VI-XI | Teachers | Seniors, 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'



**10-12 JAN**  
**E-Sports**  
Full Blown! Don't miss! | CASH PRIZES | Trophy





**Band Night 10 JAN**  
**Musical Night 11 JAN**

CONTACT: **WP: 0721300019**  
info@krcfoundation.org

**11 JAN**  
**film festival**  
Award-Giving (this evening) | Film from Manipur. Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, W's. Media Talk | Exhibitions | Meet & Greet.





**STUDENT INTERNSHIP**

Discover valuable experience and learn more about the Industry.

- Outreach Executive
- Event Management
- Programme Coordinator

**APPLY NOW** | **WP: 0721300019** | [www.krcfoundation.org](http://www.krcfoundation.org)

**10-12 JAN**  
**Book Bank**  
Anti-Risk Campaign Book Bank 2025 | Donate | Reuse | Recycle

**Book Club**  
Meet Authors, Publishers, Read & Discuss, Buy and Sell Books

**Painting Carnival**  
Water Colour painting and Draw-Paint Campaign