KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED

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North East Integration Rally
Peace | Progress | Prosperity
2026

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PERSPECTIVE

The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply.

PM Modi lauds spirit of Manipur; calls it 'land of courage and determination'

PM Modi promises peace, development and Rs 3,000 crore package for Manipur

IMPHAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, September 13 landed in Manipur, where he interacted with displaced families in Churachandpur and lauded the resilience of the state's people.

Upon his arrival in Churachandpur, the Prime Minister received a warm welcome from locals. Addressing the gathering, he recounted how heavy rains had grounded his helicopter, forcing him to travel by road. Describing the experience as "a blessing in disguise," PM Modi said the detour allowed him to witness the people's enthusiasm firsthand. "It was a memorable journey. The energy and warmth of the people along the way deeply touched me," he remarked.

During the visit, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for projects worth over ?8,500 crore, aimed at strengthening infrastructure and expanding healthcare access in the state. He emphasized that the initiatives would transform lives by boosting connectivity, improving facilities, and creating opportunities for local communities.

Calling Manipur "the land of courage and determination," PM Modi praised the spirit of its people and the natural beauty of its hills, which he said reflect the relentless hard work and resilience of the state's citizens. "I salute the spirit of the people of Manipur," he said while assuring the government's continued support for the state's development.

However, the visit drew sharp criticism from the Congress. The party termed the trip "tokenism," alleging that it amounted to a "pit stop" and a "grave insult" to the people of Manipur, given the state's ongoing challenges.

The Prime Minister's visit comes at a time when Manipur continues to grapple with displacement and unrest, underscoring the complex political and social backdrop against which his development push is being rolled out.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today appealed for peace and reconciliation in Manipur, assuring the people that the Centre is committed to rebuilding lives disrupted by violence.

Speaking in Churachandpur, the Prime Minister said the Government of India is extending full support to restore normalcy and accelerate development in the state.

"The land of Manipur is a land of hope and aspiration. Unfortunately, violence had cast its shadow on this beautiful region. Today, I promise you that I am with you, the Government of India is with you, the people of Manipur," Modi said. He announced the construction of 7,000 new houses for families displaced by ethnic conflict, in addition to nearly 60,000 houses already built under central housing schemes.

The Prime Minister underlined that peace is the foundation of progress, noting that several long-standing disputes in the Northeast had been resolved in the past decade. "We are satisfied that recently in the hills and valleys, negotiations have taken place for agreements with different groups. These are part of the efforts of the Government of India in which work is being done to establish peace while giving importance to dialogue, respect, and mutual understanding," he said.

Emphasising development, Modi said Manipur is moving in step with the rest of the nation, which is poised to become the world's third-largest economy. He highlighted major infrastructure and welfare gains, including tap water connections that have expanded from around 30,000 households to 3.5 lakh homes in recent years.

The Prime Minister also announced a special package of Rs 3,000 crore for Manipur, with Rs 500 crore specifically earmarked to support displaced families. "Today, the development of every tribal community is a priority for our country. For the first time, the 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' is being implemented for the development of tribal areas," he said.

Modi also stressed the government's focus on women's empowerment, pointing to the construction of working women's hostels in Manipur. "The culture of Manipur has always promoted women's empowerment, and our government is also committed to empowering women," he said.

Reiterating his call for unity, Modi appealed to all organisations to "move forward on the path of peace and fulfil their dreams," assuring that the Centre will continue to support the state government in resettling displaced people and making Manipur a "symbol of peace, prosperity, and progress."

Landslides force traffic diversion on NH29 in Chümoukedima

KOHIMA

Traffic along National Highway 29 in Chümoukedima district has been suspended after fresh landslides, and the risk of rockfalls at Tsiedukhrü, also known as Pagla Pahar, raised safety concerns.

An advisory issued by Deputy Commissioner Polan John stated that all traffic between Chümoukedima and Kohima would be diverted until further notice.

Light vehicles have been asked to use the Old Chümoukedima Village Road, linking Old Check Gate to New Chümoukedima. Heavy vehicles must take the longer alternate route through 7th Mile – Pimla – Mhainamtsi – Medziphema – Kohima.

The order makes clear that the NH29 stretch from Chathe Bridge to New Chümoukedima is completely closed to all vehicles. Authorities said the restrictions are necessary to secure the movement of essential supplies and safeguard commuters in the affected zone.

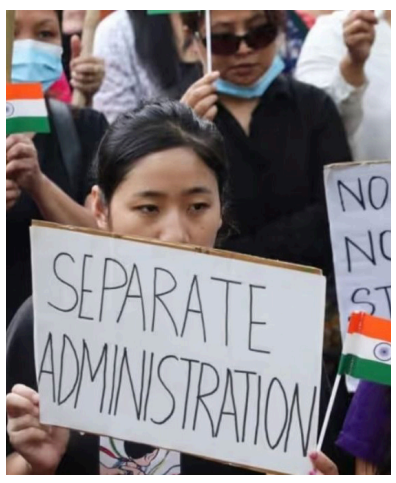
The Deputy Commissioner urged motorists and transport operators to cooperate with the diversion plan. The advisory has been circulated to police, senior officials, and local administration for immediate enforcement.

WHO SAID WHAT

I extend my best wishes to Right Hon. Mrs. Sushila Karki on assuming office as the Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Nepal. India remains firmly committed to the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Nepal.

~ Narendra Modi, PM India

'Never under same roof again': 10 Manipur MLAs demand PM Modi for separate union territory



IMPHAL

A group of 10 legislators from Manipur submitted a joint memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first-ever visit to Churachandpur, appealing for an early political settlement and the creation of a separate Union Territory with a legislature.

The memorandum, signed by MLAs cutting across BJP, KPA and Independent affiliations, stated that the minority community had been subjected to unprecedented "ethnic persecution" in Manipur, alleging state complicity in violence that forced them out of the valley areas. "We can now live in peace only as good neighbours, never under the same roof again," the memorandum declared, asserting that separation was the only way to ensure lasting peace, justice, and security for their people.

The signatories included Vungzagin Valte (BJP, Thanlon), Ngursanglur Sanate (BJP, Tipaimukh), Chinlunthang Manlun (KPA, Singngat), Letzamang Haokip (BJP, Henglep), Paolienlal Haokip (BJP, Saikot), Lallianmang Khaute (BJP, Churachandpur), Letpao Haokip (BJP, Tengnoupal), Kimneo Hangshing (KPA, Saikul), Haokholet Kipgen (Independent, Saitu) and Nemcha Kipgen (BJP, Kangpokpi). The MLAs expressed hope that Modi's visit would mark a "historic shift" in Manipur's political future and urged him to expedite dialogue on their demand. "This alone, we believe, will bring lasting peace and a sense of security, justice, and belonging to our people," the memorandum stated. The appeal comes at a time when the Prime Minister, during his address in Churachandpur, stressed peace, reconciliation and development, announcing special packages and resettlement plans for displaced families.

Tripura builds 443 check dams under Indo-German project to boost water security

AGARTALA

The Tripura government has constructed 443 earthen check dams from 2022 to date, out of the total target of 645, in Dhalai and North Tripura districts under the Indo German Development Cooperation (IGDC) initiative, an official said on Saturday.

The check dams have been constructed to regulate water flow, reduce soil erosion, and promote sustainable forest management under the externally aided project.

"The check dams support fisheries, enhance irrigation for nearby agricultural fields, and improve water availability for domestic use. The water bodies will also help retain soil moisture, sustain rain-fed crops, enable multiple cropping, and support livestock," S Prabhu, Project Director (CEO) of the IGDC initiative, Tripura said.

He said that out of the target of 645, a total of 443 check dams have been constructed so far. Among these, 427 structures were found suitable for fish farming across 126 villages in Dhalai and North Tripura districts.

The official added that the IGDC earthen check dam initiative is a key intervention under the 'Climate Resilience of Forest Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Adaptive Capacities of Forest Dependent Communities' in Tripura (CREFLAT) project.

The initiative, supported by German agency KfW focuses on improving environmental conditions and strengthening community resilience in 129 villages, he stated.

Capacity-building and skill development programmes on fisheries have been recently conducted at the district level to strengthen technical knowledge and positive feedback was received from the community, Prabhu said.

Additionally, he informed "Fingerlings of rohu, catla, grass carp, mrigal carp, and common carp fish species, along with fish feed, lime for water quality management, and fishing nets are being distributed with approval from KfW".

The northeastern state's fish production was recorded at 83,000 metric tons (MT) in 2023, an increase from 82,000 MT in 2022, but still faces a shortfall of about 31,000 MT against a demand of 1.17 lakh MT. The shortfall is being augmented by import from outside the state and Bangladesh.

The Rs 280-crore externally aided project, which was initiated in 2020, will continue for seven years.

Khumi Burton, daughter of Manipur's first assembly speaker, wins UK's Wilmslow by-election

LONDON

The Conservatives have reclaimed the Wilmslow Lacey Green and Styal ward in Cheshire East Council after a decisive win in the by-election held on Thursday. The seat, previously held by the Residents of Wilmslow since 2023, returned to Conservative hands with the election of Khumi Tonsing Burton, MBE.

Burton secured 370 votes, defeating Labour's Steve Greaney (300 votes), Reform UK's Nick Goulding (288 votes), Residents of Wilmslow's Elaine Evans (215 votes), and the Green Party's Amanda Iremonger (67 votes). The voter turnout stood at 30.46 per cent.

In her victory address, Cllr Burton expressed gratitude to the electorate. "I am humbled and delighted to have been elected to represent Wilmslow Lacey Green and Styal. The ward has been neglected for the past few years, and I am determined, with the help of the community, to improve and change it," she said.

Burton, who has lived in the Lacey Green ward for nearly 50 years, was born in Imphal, Manipur, and is the proud daughter of the late T.C. Tiankham, the first elected Speaker of the Manipur Legislative Assembly in 1948. A Paite community member, she is believed to be the first person from Manipur—and possibly from the entire Northeast India, to be elected to public office in the UK.

Beyond politics, Burton's distinguished service record includes her role as a former Deputy Lieutenant of Manchester, Justice of the Peace, school governor, and her involvement in numerous community and charitable organisations. In January 2024, she was awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the King's New Year Honours List for her contributions to Greater Manchester, Cheshire, and military charities.

The by-election was necessitated by the death of Cllr Chris Hilliard earlier this year.

With this result, the composition of Cheshire East Council now stands at: Conservatives 35, Labour 28, Independent Group 13, Liberal Democrat 1, Reform UK 1, Independent Socialist 1, and Independent non-grouped 3.

Northeast records deficient monsoon, Meghalaya worst-hit with 45 per cent rainfall deficit

KOHIMA

The Northeast has witnessed a significant shortfall in rainfall this monsoon season, with several states recording deficits well below normal levels, the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Guwahati, said on Friday, September 12.

Deputy Director Dr. Sanjay O'Neill Shaw informed that between June 1 and September 11, Meghalaya registered the steepest deficit at 45 percent, followed by Arunachal Pradesh with a 40 percent drop, Assam with 34 percent, Manipur with 13 percent, and Sikkim with 15 percent. Mizoram recorded a comparatively smaller deficit of 9 percent.

In contrast, Nagaland recorded 12 percent above normal rainfall, while Tripura remained close to average.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, Assam, which normally receives 1307.7 mm of rainfall during this period, received only 865.7 mm. Arunachal Pradesh, with a seasonal average of 1447.7 mm, also recorded just 865.7 mm. Meghalaya, usually one of the wettest states with 2401.4 mm, saw only 1328.5 mm this year. Manipur recorded 797.2 mm against its normal 920.9 mm, while Sikkim received 1252.7 mm compared to its average of 1466.2 mm.

Despite the deficit, the IMD has forecast moderate rainfall in the region over the coming days. On September 13 and 14, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland are expected to receive widespread showers, while Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura are also likely to witness rainfall in many places.

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THEATERISATION AND DRONES

The character of warfare has changed irreversibly. Battles are no longer fought only with tanks, infantry, and fighter jets on clearly defined frontlines. Instead, they unfold across physical, cyber, space, and cognitive domains-often simultaneously. Sudden and unexpected attacks, carried out by machines rather than soldiers, have become the new norm. In this shifting landscape, the Indian Armed Forces face an urgent imperative: theaterisation. Integration of the Army, Navy, and Air Force under unified theatre commands is no longer a matter of choice but of survival. General Upendra Dwivedi's recent assertion that "theaterisation will definitely take place" is not merely a vision but a necessity dictated by the realities of modern conflict. The essence of theaterisation lies in removing duplication, ensuring unity of command, and enabling swift decision-making. In an era where threats emerge in seconds and artificial intelligence tools can deliver actionable insights instantly, India cannot afford the luxury of prolonged inter-service consultations or jurisdictional overlaps. Speed, synergy, and precision must define national defence.

The need for integrated theatre commands stems from the very nature of today's threats. Pakistan continues to sponsor cross-border terrorism while increasingly using drones for smuggling arms and narcotics and even executing strikes. China, meanwhile, has developed formidable cyber, space, and electronic warfare capabilities in addition to its conventional forces. Responding effectively to such multi-domain threats requires unified command structures where information flows seamlessly and responses are coordinated in real time. At present, India's three services often operate in silos. The Army manages land, the Air Force dominates air, and the Navy secures the seas. While coordination exists, it is episodic and often dependent on personalities rather than institutional structures. In a crisis where drones breach borders, cyberattacks cripple communication, and long-range missiles threaten infrastructure simultaneously, fragmented responses could prove disastrous. Theaterisation offers a clear solution: one commander, plan, and execution.

Drones have emerged as the most disruptive game-changers in contemporary warfare. The Russia-Ukraine conflict provides a stark example, where thousands of drones have been deployed for surveillance, kamikaze attacks, and disruption of logistics. Cheap, expendable, and highly effective, drones can inflict disproportionate damage on high-value assets. Airports, radar systems, refineries, and ammunition depots-all can be neutralised by small, unmanned systems costing a fraction of the target's value. India has already witnessed the menace of drones along the Pakistan border, where they have been used to drop weapons and narcotics. Operation Sindoor further highlighted Pakistan's extensive use of unmanned systems. However, drones cannot be viewed in isolation-they are part of a broader transformation in warfare that demands joint doctrines, pooled resources, and unified command.Transitioning to theaterisation is not without challenges. Divergent views among the services, especially regarding the role of the Air Force, have delayed consensus. But these disagreements must not derail the process. Integration must prioritise cyber, space, and drone warfare units. AI-enabled command centres capable of rapid decision-making should form the backbone of each theatre. Joint training institutions and war-gaming exercises are essential to break service silos. Officers must learn to think and operate beyond their parent service. Simultaneously, indigenous R&D ensures that supply chains remain resilient even during crises. As the Army Chief pointed out, coordination with agencies like ISRO, Civil Aviation, and Railways is vital. Time is of the essence. Warfare no longer waits for committee reports or inter-service deliberations. Attacks can be launched deep inside enemy territory at short notice, and defence must be equally agile. Theatrisation ensures that decisions are taken at the speed of relevance, with no duplication or delay.

India stands at a critical juncture. The nation has recognised the transformative role of drones and the necessity of self-reliance in their development. But technology without structural reform is insufficient. Unified commands are the natural complement to unmanned systems, ensuring that drones, AI, cyber tools, and conventional forces operate under one coordinated umbrella. The sooner India embraces theaterisation, the stronger its deterrence and response capabilities will be. In the battles of tomorrow, victory will belong to the one with the most integrated, agile, and technology-driven command structure.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Without music, life would be a mistake."

—Friedrich Nietzsche

THE SCO 2025 SUMMIT HAS SIGNIFICANCE

KN PANDITA

China and five Central Asian states jointly formed an organisation in 2001, which came to be called the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the erstwhile Central Asian Republics of the defunct Soviet Union were faced with a number of problems like inter-stateborder disputes,connectivity, trade and taxes related issues, judicious distribution of assets, etc.

But more threatening issues were related to what was nicknamed as "Three Evils", meaning terrorism, separatism and religious extremism. Some observers are of the view that the forecasted "Three Evils" theory served as a catalyst for the emergence of SCO.The founding fathers had reasons to prioritise the three evils theory. Let us examine the how of it.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had provoked the formation of the mujahideen, a coalition of guerrilla groups that opposed Soviet forces and the Afghan nationalist government headed by Dr Najibullah.

Foreign interference

The mujahideen received covert support from governments like the United States, Pakistan, China, and Saudi Arabia.But a significant source of funding and manpower was private donors and religious charities across the Muslim world.

Many Muslims from other countries travelled to Afghanistan to assist the mujahideen, becoming known as "Afghan Arabs". A political issue was profiled as Islamic jihad in which Pakistan's then President General Zia, with his super intelligence organisation ISI, in tandem with the CIA, took the leading role.America's Secret War in Afghanistan, 1979-89 by Bruce Riedel, a former CIA officer, gives a graphic accountof the covert role of the US with frugal funding from Saudi Arabia.

The Taliban

The Taliban(a joint brainchild of ISI and CIA) emerged in 1994 from the ranks of the mujahideen and students (Taliban, in Pashto) who had been educated in Pakistani religious seminaries (madrasas) with a wide network in Punjab, Pakhtunkhwa and Sind provinces in Pakistan.

After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989, a full decade after the Russian troops had first landed on Afghan soil, no single large terrorist or separatist movement emerged immediately in the Muslim world.

However, the experience of fighting the Soviets and the subsequent collapse of the Afghan government led to the rise of the Taliban in the early 1990s with two glaring consequences. The pushback of the Soviet troops at the hands of the Mujahideen intoxicated Islamists with the ambition of establishing the sway of the Islamic Caliphate over a vast swath of land from Asia Minor to the Far East. The second important consequence was the emergence of Osama bin Laden, the diehard militant Islamist who was rejected by his native regime, but found dedicated protectors in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan.

Targeting Central Asia

The first regime of the Taliban in Kabul became a source of serious threat to the neighbouring Central Asian State of Tajikistan. Tajiks were already engrossed in fighting the Islamists in the region of Garm. Now the dissident Tajiks joined hands with their co-ethnic Tajik groups in northern Afghanistan. The Panjshir buffer had collapsed after the murder of Ahmad Shah Masud, and the Afghan Taliban could at any time run over the southern tracts of Tajikistan.

The strategic state of Uzbekistan in Central Asia also came under the terrorist and separatist onslaught.Following the implosion of the Soviet Union, Islamism rose in Uzbekistan owing to an ideological vacuum left by communism, a history of Islamic identity, and external support from foreign religious groups. Key movements like the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) and Hizb-ut-Tahrir emerged, advocating for an Islamic state and challenging the secular government, leading to significant regional instability and violence.

Wealthy West Asian countries, along with Pakistan and Afghanistan, provided ideological and financial support to fundamentalist Islamist groups, fostering their growth.

Teachers and missionaries from countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkey promoted the idea of an Islamic state and supported militant Islamists in their opposition to the secular regime.

Pakistan activated

The activities of these groups, especially after the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 1996, further emphasised the threat of Islamic radicalism, contributing to regional instability.

Pakistan President Zia's close contacts with prominent radicalised Islamic groups in the region and the covert support he received from the American deep statere-sulted in the Pakistan army, under the guidance and tutelage of ISI, raising several jihadi groups on Pakistani soil itself with a clear agenda and roadmap for radicalising the faith. For example, LeTand JeM were asked to raise suicidebombers for operating in Kashmir, Lashkar-i-Jhangvi had the task of cleansingPakistan of the Shia and Hindu population, and Hizbul Mujahideen was tasked to clear the Kashmir valley of its Hindu population and its cultural symbles.

Even China was also targeted for separation, in which nearly 2.5 crore Sunni Uighurs of Eastern Turkestan were incited to separate from the mainland. But for Beijing's decisive and heavy-handed action, the Uighur issue could have become another festering sore.

This was the broad scenario that had unfolded in Central Asia and which had the potential of engulfing theentire region into the cauldron of "Three Evils".

It is for the first time that the issue of countering terrorism, separatism and radicalism has figured so prominently in the Tianjin Summit.Again, a notable thing is that it was PM Modi who devoted a good deal of the time allotted to him to urge the international community to initiate a united action for countering the growing, grave threat of the evil we are talking about.

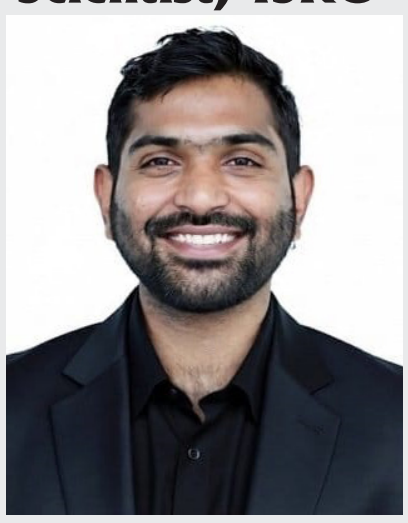
Trump patronizes handlers

The sad and unfortunate development is that no less a person than the President of the US, a country that has suffered heavy losses as a result of 9/11, should invite the army commander of a country considered to be the den of the "Three Evils". It remains to be seen how the SCO will respond to this diabolical step of the world's strongest democracy. Will the US pocket the sobriquet of epicentre of world terrorism, or will it prove true to the hopes and promises of the great American thinkers and ideologues who fought the British colonialism so that democracy was strengthened and secured?

Unless the SCO brings all pressure on the US to cease extending patronage to terrorist elements and takes stringent action to curb the menace, it appears difficult to crush terrorism and terrorist movements in different parts of the world. Americans are fed up with both home-bred and externally sponsored terrorism. If the administration in Washington succumbs to the satanic triad, it will create tremendous difficulties for the people of America.

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

BCCI has taken an incredibly loose stance and now the entire nation is ready to GIVE UP watching cricket. As someone rightly said, it's not Team INDIA, it's just a private BCCI team. ~ Radha Krishna Kavaluru, Ex-Scientist, ISRO



Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Solar, Hydro, and Renewable Energy Sector

RASHIM DEEPIKA

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is emerging as a game-changer acrossmultiple sectors, and its impact on the renewable energy domain is particularly transformative. The growing focus on clean energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable development calls for innovative solutions that can reduce costs, improve efficiency, and ensure timely project execution. AI has the potential to revolutionize the solar sector, hydro sector, solarization of government buildings, installation and commissioning of renewable energy plants, and even the monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure such as solar street lights. Its applications extend to decision-making, predictive analytics, and research evaluation, making it an important tool for Science and Technology Departments.

AI in Solar and Hydro Sector Purchases

Procurement of solar power plants, turbines, and associated equipment is often a time-consuming process involving multiple stakeholders. AI can streamline this process through AI-based tender analysis tools that evaluate bids based on cost, quality, delivery timeline, and vendor performance history. Predictive algorithms can also forecast future price trends of panels, inverters, and hydro turbines, helping decision-makers purchase equipment at the most economical time.

Additionally, AI can detect anomalies or unusually low bids that may indicate future quality or delivery issues, thereby reducing procurement risks.

Solarisation of Buildings and Plant Installation

AI plays a significant role in site selection and feasibility studies for rooftop solar projects and small hydro plants. By analyzing satellite imagery, weather patterns, shading data, and load requirements, AI recommends optimal capacity and panel placement for maximum generation. During installation, AI-driven project management tools allocate resources, schedule activities, and predict delays due to weather or logistical constraints.

Digital twin technology – a virtual simulation of the plant – allows engineers to visualize the installation process, detect design flaws, and ensure smooth execution before physical implementation. This results in faster, error-free commissioning and reduced project costs.

Commissioning and Performance Monitoring

AI-powered drones and computer vision systems can inspect solar plants for panel alignment, wiring quality, and microcracks during commissioning. Once operational, AI continuously monitors the output of each panel, turbine, or inverter. Any deviation from expected generation is immediately flagged, enabling timely intervention. Predictive maintenance models use real-time sensor data (temperature, vibration, voltage) to identify components at risk of failure, ensuring that repairs are carried out before a breakdown occurs. This minimizes downtime and improves the overall plant efficiency.

Role of AI in Solar Street Lights and Repair Monitoring

Solar street lights are critical for urban and rural infrastructure but often suffer from delayed repairs and maintenance. AI can automate real-time monitoring of street lights by using IoT-enabled sensors to report failures instantly.

Predictive models can forecast battery failures or LED degradation, allowing pre-emptive replacement and reducing public inconvenience. AI-based dashboards can also monitor the performance of repair teams, track response times, and generate reports for administrative review. This ensures faster resolution and improved service delivery.

AI in Biomass Cookware and Energy Efficiency

AI can also contribute to the development and optimization of biomass cookware by analyzing combustion efficiency, fuel usage, and emission levels. Smart sensors connected to AI models can recommend optimal fuel loading patterns, thereby reducing smoke emissions and improving energy efficiency. This helps in promoting clean cooking solutions, especially in rural areas where biomass remains a major fuel source.

AI in Science and Technology Departments

Within Science and Technology Departments, AI can support evaluation of research papers and project proposals by screening for originality, relevance, and alignment with policy priorities. Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools can compare submissions against global databases to detect plagiarism, identify innovative keywords, and rank projects based on merit. AI can also help predict the potential impact of a project by analyzing historical data from similar research, thereby enabling evidence-based funding decisions.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a futuristic concept; it is an essential tool for improving efficiency, transparency, and sustainability in the renewable energy sector. From purchasing decisions to plant commissioning, from solarisation of buildings to monitoring solar street lights, AI ensures better resource utilization, reduced project delays, and improved service delivery.

PM Modi inaugurates Bairabi-Sairang rail line in Mizoram, addresses public from Lengpui Airport

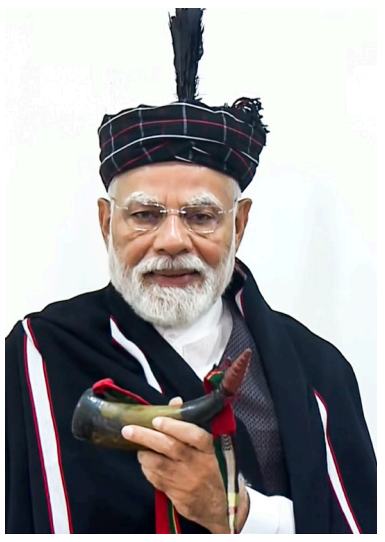
NORTHEAST SUFFERED UNDER VOTE-BANK POLITICS: PM MODI

AIZAWL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, September 13 inaugurated the Bairabi–Sairang new railway line, a transformative infrastructure project worth over Rs 8,070 crore that officially connects Mizoram's capital to the Indian Railways network for the first time.

The ambitious project, constructed across some of the country's most challenging hilly terrain, features 45 tunnels, 55 major bridges, and 88 minor bridges, reflecting a remarkable feat of engineering. With the inauguration, Sairang in Mizoram is now directly linked to Delhi through the Rajdhani Express, putting Aizawl firmly on India's railway map.

Speaking at Lengpui Airport, the Prime Minister apologised for not being able to reach Aizawl due to adverse weather conditions, but said he could feel the people's warmth and affection even from a distance.



Recalling the laying of the foundation stone years ago, Modi hailed the resilience of engineers and workers who overcame immense challenges to complete the project. He described the inauguration as a "historic milestone" not only for Mizoram but also for the entire Northeast.

In his address, the Prime Minister lauded the people of Mizoram for their long-standing contributions to the nation. "Whether in the freedom struggle or in nation building, the people of Mizoram have always come forward. Sacrifice and service, courage and compassion—these values are at the heart of Mizo society," he said.

Modi also took the opportunity to criticise opposition parties, accusing them of indulging in vote bank politics. "For a long time, some political parties focused only on places with more votes and seats. The entire Northeast, including Mizoram, suffered greatly because of this attitude. Our government's approach is different—we place neglected and marginalised communities at the centre of development," he asserted.

The inauguration of the railway line has been widely welcomed as a symbol of connectivity, inclusivity, and integration for Mizoram, marking a new chapter in the state's developmental journey.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated a series of landmark development projects in Mizoram, including the state's first railway line, while asserting that the Northeastern states had long "suffered greatly" under opposition-led governments that practiced vote-bank politics.

The Bairabi–Sairang New Rail Line, a historic project, will connect Mizoram to the Indian Railways network for the first time, marking a new chapter in the state's connectivity and growth. The inauguration, which was conducted via live video conferencing from Lengpui Airport due to inclement weather, also saw the flagging off of three new express train services: Sairang (Aizawl)–Delhi Rajdhani Express, Sairang–Guwahati Express, and Sairang–Kolkata Express.

"For the past 11 years, our government has been working relentlessly for the development of the Northeast. Today, this region is emerging as the growth engine of India," PM Modi said. He emphasized that over the years, many Northeastern states have been integrated into the national rail network, which he described as a critical step in ending decades of neglect.

Targeting the Congress, PM Modi said the party had ignored the Northeast for decades, focusing only on seats and vote-bank politics. In contrast, he noted, the BJP-led government has consistently placed the region at the forefront of the nation's development agenda.

The new rail line and train services are expected to significantly boost trade, tourism, and overall economic activity in Mizoram, while improving connectivity for its people with the rest of the country.

Why should I apologise for Tarun Gogoi's mistakes?: Himanta

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today dismissed Congress as irrelevant in the upcoming Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections, saying the real contest will be between BPF, UPPL, and BJP.

Addressing a rally at Anandabazar in Chirang district, Sarma said, "Congress has no position in BTC. The fight here is between BPF, UPPL, and BJP."

Taking a jibe at the opposition, he recalled former CM Tarun Gogoi's approach to the Scheduled Tribe status for various communities.

"Gogoi's government had proposed giving ST status without ensuring legal safeguards. It is like offering rice to eat without providing plates. Why should we inherit Congress's mistakes? BJP has moved forward with a clear and planned approach to ST inclusion," he asserted.

"Should I apologise for the past mistake of Gaurav Gogoi's father (Late Assam CM Tarun Gogoi)? Everyone knows who made the mistake; hence, the public does not blame us, and all the chaos in Assam has been created by the Congress government.

On the ongoing investigation into alleged links between a Member of Parliament from Assam and Pakistani handlers, Sarma reiterated that the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) findings will be made public.

"I have already announced this in my tweet. The SIT report will be released," he told reporters.

'PM Most Merciless': Congress youths detained with 'burning Manipur' portrait during Modi visit

IMPHAL

Congress youth leaders in Manipur staged a dramatic protest in Imphal today against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the violence-hit state.

Holding up a portrait depicting a "burning Manipur," the demonstrators attempted to march towards Kangla Fort, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive shortly, but were detained by police before they could reach the venue.

The protest began at the Congress Bhavan in Imphal, where youth leaders assembled with the symbolic portrait meant to be presented to the Prime Minister.

The police swiftly intervened, containing the march and detaining several Congress workers inside the party office.

Chanting slogans, the protesters branded Narendra Modi as the "most merciless Prime Minister of India" and Home Minister Amit Shah as the "most merciless Home Minister."

They alleged that Modi's two-year silence during Manipur's prolonged ethnic strife amounted to indifference to the suffering of the people.

The Prime Minister, who travelled by road from Imphal to Churachandpur earlier in the day, is expected to visit Kangla Fort later today.

The Congress youth leaders accused the government of attempting to suppress their peaceful protest and said their act was a reminder of the pain and devastation still haunting Manipur.

Gaurav Gogoi slams BJP-UPPL alliance over scams, land deals in Kokrajhar rally

KOKRAJHAR

A massive election rally at Debitola High School ground in Kokrajhar on September 12 turned into a strong show of strength for the Congress, with party leaders launching sharp attacks on the BJP-UPPL alliance ahead of the polls.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president and MP Gaurav Gogoi accused the ruling coalition of betraying public trust by failing to deliver on promises of development. He said the much-publicised Jal Jeevan Mission has become a "stigma," with pipes laid but no water supply, and alleged widespread irregularities in schemes like Arunodaya and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

According to him, instead of addressing these failures, the government resorts to police intimidation to silence dissent.

Gogoi further charged Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

with admitting to scams but refusing to take responsibility. He also criticised the BJP for failing to grant tribal status to six communities despite repeated assurances and urged a peaceful resolution to the Koch Rajbanshi community's protests in Golakganj.

Drawing comparisons with the Congress era, Gogoi said his father, former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, had ensured peace in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) by bringing militant groups into the mainstream. He alleged the current government is "promoting guns and liquor" while shutting down schools and increasing liquor shops, jeopardising the future of young people.

The Congress leader also levelled a serious charge, claiming the government sold 40,000 bighas of land in Sixth Schedule areas to corporate groups like Adani, Ambani, and Patanjali without consulting indigenous tribes such as the Rabha, Garo, and Bodo. He vowed that Congress would not allow common people's land to be handed over to private entities.

On regional politics, Gogoi questioned the silence of parties like BPF and UPPL on underdevelopment in health, education, and transport, alleging they function under Sarma's influence. He declared that Congress has fielded candidates in all BTR constituencies as part of a "people's fight" against an "arrogant king."

Dhubri MP Rakibul Hussain, who also addressed the rally, warned voters against backing the BPF, claiming a "secret understanding" between its leader Hagrama Mohilary and the BJP. He said voting for BPF would indirectly strengthen the ruling party.

More than five thousand people attended the meeting, along with senior Congress leaders, including MLAs Wazed Ali Chowdhury, AK Rashid Alam, and Sobhan Ali Sarkar, signalling significant grassroots support for the party in the region.

Meghalaya High Court calls for community action to tackle rising child abuse cases

SHILLONG

Child sexual abuse remains a pressing concern in Meghalaya despite the state's progressive matrilineal social structure, senior officials revealed at a state consultation on girl child safety held on September 12 in Shillong.

Acting Chief Justice Hamarsan Singh Thangkhiew warned that gender discrimination persists across multiple sectors even in a society where women traditionally serve as custodians of lineage and property. The consultation, organised by the High Court's Juvenile Justice Committee and the state Social Welfare Department, brought together judges, government officials, and education representatives to address systemic challenges facing girls.

"When we empower and protect our girls, we not only improve their lives but also build a healthier and stronger society," Thangkhiew told the gathering at the High Court auditorium. He emphasised that girls represent the "backbone of society and the future of the nation."

Agatha Sangma, chairperson of the Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, delivered stark statistics about child sexual abuse cases in the state, calling the numbers "concerning" despite local cultural advantages for women. She stressed that addressing these crimes requires urgent intervention from multiple stakeholders. "Protecting the girl child is not charity; it is justice. It is not a matter of sympathy, but a matter of rights," Sangma declared, highlighting the need for coordinated efforts between families, schools and communities. The consultation revealed that girls in Meghalaya continue facing barriers in healthcare access, educational opportunities, and economic participation. Thangkhiew noted that government action alone cannot solve these systemic issues.

"Safeguarding the girl child is not solely the responsibility of the government. Communities must come forward and ensure that girls have access to better healthcare and opportunities," he said.

The day-long session aimed to identify gaps in existing child protection mechanisms and develop actionable strategies for creating safer environments. Participants included Justice W Diengdoh, Justice Biswadeep Bhattacharjee, Social Welfare Commissioner Pravin Bakshi, and various district officials.

Nagaland teachers threaten hunger strike over stalled pay scale issue

KOHIMA

Teachers of the Nagaland RMSA-2016 batch have warned they are ready to escalate their protest, including a hunger strike, until the government implements pay scales equal to their 2013 counterparts.

The protest, now in its fifth day, reflects growing frustration among educators over what they call years of government inaction. Renbemo L. Patton, spokesperson for the Nagaland RMSA Teachers Association (NRMSATA), said, "We will not call off this agitation unless our rightful demands are met. Several members have voluntarily expressed their readiness for a hunger strike to press for justice."

Patton accused the government of using a pending Supreme Court review petition as a delay tactic, calling it "a clear tactic to sideline our legitimate demand." NRMSATA president Imlitemjen Imchen echoed the sentiment, highlighting the long legal battle.

"It has been over seven years and seven months in litigation, and instead of resolving the matter amicably, the government continues to drag us to court," he said.

The association, while open to negotiations, urged authorities to provide a practical solution immediately. The teachers said protests would pause over the weekend but resume on Monday if no progress is made.

Officials from the School Education department, including Commissioner and Secretary Kevileno Angami and Mission Director Samagra Shiksha Nagaland L. Jamithung Lotha, held a high-level meeting with NRMSATA representatives on Thursday. The talks failed to yield a resolution, further deepening tensions.

The teachers emphasised the need for government action in line with Ministry of Human Resource Development and National Council of Teacher Education guidelines, warning that prolonged delays could push them toward more extreme measures.

Tripura targets potato self-reliance by 2030 with record yields and global partnership

AGARTALA

Tripura has set an ambitious goal of becoming fully self-reliant in potato and potato seed production by 2030, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Ratan Lal Nath announced on September 12.

The state government has signed an agreement with the Peru-based International Potato Centre (CIP) to boost cultivation, introduce advanced technologies, and establish a chips processing centre. The deal follows a high-level meeting with CIP Director General Simon Heck and Country Manager Niroj Sharma in Agartala.

Currently, 23,746 farmers cultivate potato across 7,622 hectares in Tripura. Until recently, yields averaged 19.16 MT per hectare, with farmers dependent on seeds sourced locally or from outside states like West Bengal and Punjab, often with no quality assurance.

"Earlier, we experimented with True Potato Seeds (TPS), but the process was costly, labour-intensive, and yielded limited impact," Nath said.

That changed with the introduction of the Epical Rooted Cutting (ERC) method in 2022-23, funded with ?5 crore under the Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY). Under this technique, just 104 farmers were supported in 2023, 402 in 2024, and now 4,000 farmers are set to benefit.

The results have been unprecedented. "Tripura has achieved a per-hectare yield of 62.5 MT—the highest ever, compared to the earlier average of 19.16 MT. Even Simon Heck said he has never seen such potato production anywhere," Nath told reporters.

Last year, the state produced 1.46 lakh MT of potatoes against a requirement of 1.55 lakh MT. With the new technology push, Tripura plans to achieve self-sufficiency in potato seeds by 2028-29 and full self-reliance in production by 2029-30.

"Once we achieve self-reliance, our next step will be to export potatoes. This will not only guarantee food security for Tripura but also open new economic opportunities," Nath added.

Quest!

90% of people will fake laugh when they don't understand what someone said to them.

NATIONAL

Direction for regular SIR encroaches on EC's exclusive jurisdiction: Poll Panel tells SC

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has informed the Supreme Court that any directive to conduct special intensive revisions (SIR) of electoral rolls at regular intervals across the country would amount to an "encroachment" upon its exclusive constitutional domain.

In a counter-affidavit filed in response to a plea, the EC asserted that it holds "complete discretion" over the policy and timing of electoral roll revisions, to the exclusion of any other authority. The affidavit comes in reply to a petition by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, who has sought court directions mandating the EC to carry out SIRs nationwide, particularly before elections, to ensure that only Indian citizens influence the country's polity and policy.

The EC maintained that it is empowered by the Constitution and relevant statutes to decide the nature and timing of revisions, whether summary or intensive, based on prevailing conditions.

"Any direction to conduct a 'SIR' at regular intervals throughout the country would encroach upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the ECI," the poll body said.

Citing Article 324 of the Constitution, the Commission stated that it is vested with the superintendence, direction, and control of electoral roll preparation and election conduct. It added that this constitutional provision forms the "bedrock" of the EC's plenary authority, even in areas where statutory law may be silent or inadequate.

The affidavit also referred to Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, noting that while the law mandates electoral roll revision before general or assembly elections and by-elections, it does not impose a fixed timeline for doing so. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, also gives the EC the discretion to determine whether to carry out a summary or intensive revision.

The EC said it is fully cognisant of its responsibility to maintain the purity and integrity of electoral rolls and has already initiated steps accordingly. Through a letter dated July 5, 2025, addressed to Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all states and Union Territories, except Bihar, the Commission ordered the start of pre-revision activities for a fresh SIR, with 1 January 2026 as the qualifying date.

The EC also convened a national conference of all CEOs in New Delhi on 10 September to review the progress.

The affidavit comes days after the Supreme Court, on 8 September, directed the inclusion of Aadhaar cards as a valid identity proof for the SIR exercise in Bihar. The court, however, clarified that Aadhaar would not serve as proof of citizenship. It also allowed the EC to verify the authenticity of Aadhaar numbers submitted by electors.

The Bihar SIR, the first since 2003, sparked significant political controversy, with opposition parties alleging that the exercise was intended to disenfranchise sections of the population. The EC countered that the aim was to clean the voter rolls by removing names of deceased persons, duplicates, and non-citizens.

According to the EC's notification dated 24 June 2025, the final electoral roll for Bihar will be published on 30 September. Preliminary findings from the SIR revealed a significant drop in the number of registered voters, from 7.9 crore to 7.24 crore.

The EC said it would continue to undertake SIRs in various states, as envisaged in its June 24 order, and urged the court to dismiss the petition.

'Face-saving farce, grave insult to people': Congress slams PM Modi's '3-hour pit stop' to violence-hit Manipur

NEW DELHI

Terming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Manipur a "pit stop," the Congress on Saturday alleged that the trip is "tokenism" and a "grave insult" to the people of the state.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused Modi of organising a grand welcome ceremony for himself and claimed that it "is a cruel prick" to the wounds of those still suffering.

"In the words of your own...Where is your Rajdharma?" Kharge asked on X just before the start of Modi's Manipur visit.

"Narendra Modi ji, your 3-hour pit stop in Manipur is not compassion – it's farce, tokenism, and a grave insult to wounded people. Your so-called roadshow in Imphal and Churachandpur today, is nothing but a cowardly escape from hearing the cries of people in relief camps!" the Congress chief said in his post on X.

"864 days of violence:– 300 lives lost, 67,000 displaced, 1,500 plus injured. You made 46 foreign trips since, but not a single visit to share two words of sympathy with your own citizens," Kharge said.

"Your last visit to Manipur? January 2022 for elections! Your 'Double Engine' has bulldozed the innocent lives of Manipur. You and Home Minister Amit Shah's gross incompetence and complicity in betraying all communities was shielded from scrutiny, by imposing President's Rule in the state. Violence still continues," he said.

It is the BJP which was responsible for maintaining law and order in the state and it is now the Union government which is again dithering, he said.

"Not to forget, that is your government which is responsible for National Security and border patrol. This hush-hush pit stop isn't repentance. It's not even guilt. You are organising a grand welcome ceremony for yourself. It is a cruel prick to the wounds of those still suffering because of your own abdication of basic constitutional responsibilities!" Kharge said.

Speaking with reporters in Wayanad, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also hit out at the PM and said he should have visited the state long before.

"I am glad that he has decided, after two years, that it is worth visiting (Manipur). He should have gone long before. It is very unfortunate that he has allowed what is happening there to continue for so long and for so many people to be killed. That has not been the tradition of prime ministers in India," she said.

Congress general secretary K C Venugopal also lashed out at the prime minister's visit, calling it a "belated, face-saving farce."

PM Modi's Manipur visit today is a display of how sorely lacking in empathy and compassion a leader can be, he claimed.

Manipur has been burning since 2023, and he found time to pay a visit today - after 2.5 years, Venugopal said on X.

"This visit too is a half-hearted measure, with him spending barely a few hours there, and is clubbed with a visit to Mizoram," the Congress leader said.

He said that the Modi government has neither presented a solution to address the "deep social rift that caused the civil war" nor does it have the "courage to bring warring groups together" and make a genuine attempt at peace.

"Instead, he is treating this like any other PR event, treating his grand arrival as an occasion to celebrate.

Such a tone deaf, insensitive and self-aggrandising stunt will be nothing but a mockery of the people of Manipur.

"As this belated, face-saving farce takes place today, one is left to wonder whether those who peddle hate every single day can ever be messengers of peace," Venugopal said.

Modi reached Manipur on Saturday afternoon on his first visit to the state after ethnic violence broke out in May 2023.

He will inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 8,500 crore during the 3-hour-long visit.

INTERNATIONAL

Israel army says over 250,000 residents have left Gaza City

JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said Saturday that more than 250,000 people have left Gaza City for other parts of the territory over the past few weeks, since it intensified its assault on Gaza's largest urban centre.

"According to IDF (military) estimates, more than a quarter of a million residents of Gaza City have moved out of the city for their own safety," the military's Arabic-language spokesman Colonel Avichay Adraee said on X.

The United Nations estimates that about one million Palestinians live in and around Gaza City.

Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties in accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify details provided by the military or tolls reported by the Palestinian territory's civil defence agency.

On Saturday, the Israeli military dropped leaflets urging residents in western districts to evacuate, as Gaza's civil defence agency reported continuous air strikes.

"The Israeli army is operating with very intense force in your area and is determined to dismantle and defeat Hamas," the leaflet read.

"For your safety, evacuate immediately via Al-Rashid Street to the south of Wadi Gaza. You have been warned."

Displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza carry their belongings along the coastal road toward southern Gaza, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025, after the Israeli army issued evacuation orders from Gaza City.

Israel has come under mounting international pressure to halt its offensive, but says it is determined to dismantle Hamas in what it describes as one of the group's last strongholds.

In recent weeks the military has primarily targeted high-rise buildings, saying they were being used by Hamas militants.

The United Nations and members of the international community have warned against the military's assault for fear it will worsen the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza City, where the UN has declared a famine.

According to the civil defence agency, Israeli strikes killed five people since dawn Saturday.

On Friday, at least 50 people were killed across the territory, the civil defence agency said.

"Every night we go to sleep not knowing if we will wake up alive," Gaza City resident Umm Anas al-Ashqar told .

"The bombing around us never stops... We stayed in our house because we have nowhere else to go... This is not life. Death would be easier than this."

Pakistani doctor walked out of surgery midway to have sex with nurse in UK: Report

LONDON

A Pakistani doctor allegedly left a patient under anaesthetic for about eight minutes at Tameside Hospital in Greater Manchester to have sex with a nurse in another operating theatre, a medical tribunal has been told.

Dr Suhail Anjum, 44, and the unnamed nurse were reportedly discovered in a "compromising position" by a colleague at the Tameside hospital in Greater Manchester, on September 16, 2023. The colleague was described as "shocked" after stumbling upon the pair, reported the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service.

As BBC reported the incident came to light during a fitness to practise hearing after Dr Anjum, who had been living in Pakistan, applied to return to work in the UK. He admitted to the General Medical Council (GMC) that his behaviour was "shameful" and did not dispute the evidence presented against him.

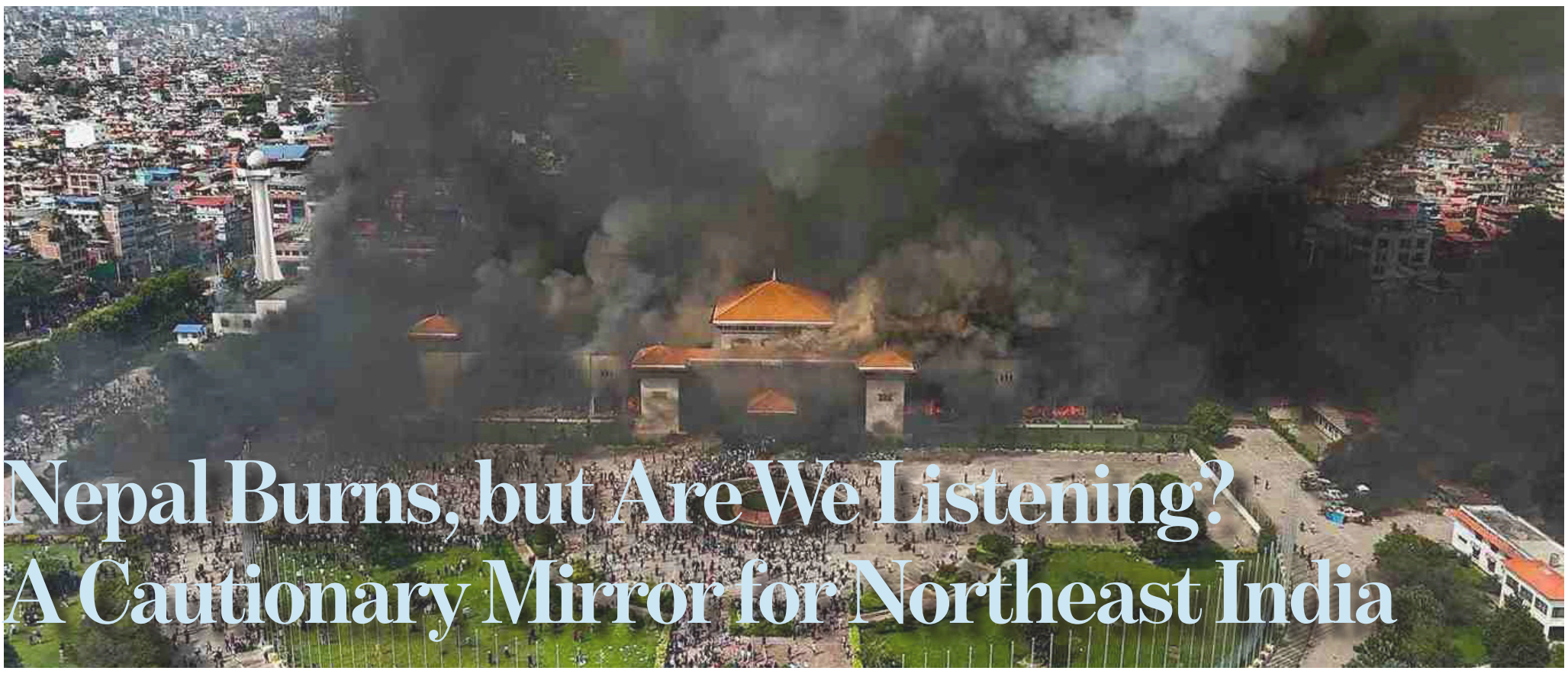
The tribunal heard that Dr Anjum had asked for a "comfort break" midway through a procedure and requested another nurse to monitor the patient. Instead, he went to a separate operating theatre at the hospital in Ashton-under-Lyne, where he engaged in sexual activity with a woman identified in the hearing as Nurse C.

"The nurse who walked in on the pair had been 'shocked and quickly walked through the theatre to the exit doors.' It is right to say that no harm came to the patient when Dr Anjum was absent from the theatre and the procedure went on without further incident," BBC quoted Andrew Molloy, representing the GMC, as saying.

Dr Anjum returned to the theatre after roughly eight minutes and completed the operation. He admitted he knew Nurse C was "likely to be nearby" and acknowledged that his actions could have put the patient at risk.

Speaking to the tribunal, he said, "It was quite shameful, to say the least. I only have myself to blame." He added, "I offer my sincere apologies to everyone involved, and I want the opportunity to put this right," and admitted he had let colleagues and the NHS trust down.

Dr Anjum said the incident occurred during a "stressful time" for his family, following the premature birth of his daughter, when he and his wife were struggling to connect. He told the tribunal he hopes to resume his career in the UK and promised that such a "one-off error of judgment" would not happen again.



Nepal Burns, but Are We Listening? A Cautionary Mirror for Northeast India

Flames Across the Border

In recent weeks, Nepal has erupted into flames - not the literal flames of wildfires or accidental blazes, but of rage, betrayal, and a people's exhaustion with politics-as-usual. The images that have emerged from Kathmandu and beyond are startling, almost cinematic in their brutality: a former prime minister's home engulfed in fire with his wife's lifeless body inside; ministers hunted through alleyways by furious citizens; a finance minister, bloodied and humiliated, scrambling over a muddy riverbank to escape the mob. Helicopters have been filmed dangling ropes as politicians - once untouchable in their power and arrogance - now cling to them in desperation to be airlifted away from the very people they once claimed to represent.

This is not merely unrest. It is an eruption - a culmination of years of simmering resentment against corruption, dynastic privilege, and political betrayal. The resignation of Nepal's Prime Minister in the wake of the protests, followed by reports that he may have fled the country, has only intensified the sense of a state unraveling. What began as opposition to a clumsy government ban on social media platforms has morphed into something much larger: a generational uprising, a furious reckoning with a political class that long believed itself immune to consequences.

The government's brutal response - with at least 19 young protesters killed - has failed to dampen the movement. If anything, the bloodshed has hardened it. A new generation of Nepalis, connected through digital networks, has declared that enough is enough. They are no longer content to wait for slow reforms or empty promises. They are demanding accountability - not in some distant future, but now.

And as I watched these images unfold, I could not help but turn my gaze homeward, to Northeast India. Because while the fire may be raging in Kathmandu, its smoke is drifting across our own skies. The warning is clear: what burns in Nepal today could very well ignite in our own backyards tomorrow.

The Social Media Ban: Symptom, Not Cause

At first glance, Nepal's protests appeared to be triggered by the social media ban - an ill-conceived attempt to silence criticism in the digital age. Yet the truth runs deeper. Social media was not the disease, only the bandage hastily applied to a festering wound. For years, Nepal's youth had been using platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok to document and ridicule the obscene displays of wealth by those in power: luxury holidays, reels flaunting cars and jewelry, ministers' children posing from international resorts while ordinary families struggled for daily survival.

The ban was meant to choke the voices exposing this rot. Instead, it inflamed the anger further. Exiled Nepali youths in Australia, the U.S., and Europe amplified the message, ensuring the protests could not be confined within national borders.

It is worth noting that wealth in itself is not inherently problematic. Success achieved through innovation, business acumen, or legitimate enterprise should indeed be celebrated. But when individuals entrusted with public office flaunt riches grossly disproportionate to their positions, and when those riches are shrouded in secrecy, the result is devastating to public trust. A government survives not only on laws and coercion but on legitimacy - and legitimacy dies the moment public service is reduced to private gain.

Memories of an Exodus

For me, the scenes from Nepal are not abstract. They are tied to personal memories of Nepali friends from the 1990s - schoolmates in Delhi who had fled instability at home. Many eventually migrated to Australia or America, not out of choice but compulsion. Their homeland, as they often told me, had offered no real hope for the future. And yet, even from afar, their hearts remained tethered to Nepal. To them, this current crisis is not just political upheaval; it is the culmination of a tragedy decades in the making.

This is precisely why the fires in Kathmandu should matter deeply to us in India's Northeast. Because the exodus that pushed Nepalis abroad has long mirrored our own. For decades, young men and women from Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, and beyond have boarded trains to Delhi, Bangalore, or Mumbai - not because they dreamt of leaving home, but because staying offered no dignified livelihood. What we see in Nepal today is a cautionary reflection of our own failures.

The Paradox of Plenty in the Northeast

The irony is stark. The Northeast does not suffer from a lack of resources. In fact, money pours in. According to recent data tabled in the Rajya Sabha, nearly ?65,000 crore was allocated to the region last year alone. By mandate, fifty-four central ministries are required to earmark 10 percent of their budgets for the Northeast. In the 2025-26 Union Budget, the Ministry of Development of the Northeastern Region (DoNER) received nearly ?6,000 crore - a dramatic 47 percent jump from the previous year.

On paper, this should be transformative. In practice, the story on the ground remains depressingly familiar. Roads remain potholed or unfinished, schools dilapidated, hospitals under-equipped. Where are the industries promised to absorb the region's restless youth? Where are the jobs that match the promise of such staggering investments?

The gap between budgetary allocation and tangible outcomes reveals the same disease that now convulses Nepal: corruption, mismanagement, and the cynical conversion of public money into private wealth.

A Parade of Projects, a Ledger of Broken Promises

Take, for example, the Prime Minister's recent visit to Manipur - his first in two years, after months of ethnic violence that scarred the state. The visit was accompanied by announcements of new projects worth ?8,500 crore. Politically and symbolically, the gesture was significant. But symbolism alone cannot rebuild broken trust.

The real test lies not in foundation stones but in follow-through. Will these projects survive beyond the initial ribbon-cutting ceremonies? Will they translate into real improvements in healthcare, education, or livelihoods? Or will they join the long ledger of half-built bridges, abandoned factories, and ghostly infrastructure that litter the region as monuments to broken promises?

Without accountability mechanisms at both central and state levels, such announcements risk becoming yet another performance - a grand illusion of progress with little substance.

The Culture of Loot and Privilege

Much like their Nepali counterparts, too many leaders in Northeast India see politics less as a duty and more as an enterprise. Resorts, luxury vehicles, and palatial homes mushroom even as villages go without drinking water. Government contracts are monopolised by political families; kickbacks are standard practice. Even public service jobs - the lifeline for many in the region - are often tainted by bribery, with "rates" openly fixed for postings and transfers.

This is not governance. It is plunder, plain and simple. And it is carried out brazenly, in full view of the youth who are now armed not only with smartphones but also with rising expectations of transparency and justice.

A Generational Fault Line

The generational divide is stark. In the 1980s and 1990s, many of us quietly left the Northeast, resigned to the futility of challenging entrenched systems. We became a silent generation of migrants, our dissent expressed through absence rather than confrontation.

But today's Generation Z is different. They are connected, global, and vocal. They are unafraid to call out hypocrisy, whether through Instagram reels, viral tweets, or grassroots activism. They demand more than survival; they demand purpose, fairness, and accountability. And they are not content to wait decades for change.

This is precisely what Nepal's burning streets illustrate: when institutions fail, when avenues for justice are blocked, the youth will eventually push back. And their pushback will not always be polite.

Violence Is Not the Answer - But Silence Is Not Possible

Let us be clear: violence is never the solution. It destroys far more than it builds. The images from Nepal - of mobs hunting ministers, of bodies lying in the street - should horrify us. But to dismiss the anger behind them would be a grave mistake. Because when governments erode trust, when leaders flaunt privilege while citizens suffer indignities, when institutions are hollowed out by corruption, outrage is inevitable.

The challenge, then, is to channel this outrage into constructive transformation rather than destructive fury. We do not need revolutions of fire; we need revolutions of accountability. Transparency in governance, strict auditing of funds, independent watchdogs, and genuine participation of civil society are not luxuries. They are survival strategies for fragile democracies.

Lessons We Must Learn

The lessons from Nepal's crisis for Northeast India are unambiguous:

1.Accountability Cannot Be Deferred

Every rupee allocated to the Northeast must be traceable, auditable, and transparently spent. Without such mechanisms, resentment will only grow.

2.Political Dynasties Breed Disillusionment

Much like Nepal's Rana-Deuba nexus, political entitlement in the Northeast - where families treat constituencies as hereditary fiefs - corrodes democracy. Leadership must be earned, not inherited.

3.Youth Will Shape the Future

Unlike past generations, today's youth are less willing to migrate quietly. They want to reclaim their homeland. Ignoring their voice is courting disaster.

4. Corruption Is Not Victimless

Every stolen contract, every siphoned fund, translates into real suffering: a child without medicine, a village without roads, a graduate without a job.

5. Silence from the Centre Is Dangerous

Just as Nepal's prime minister underestimated the anger on the streets, India's central leadership must not misread the discontent brewing in the Northeast. Symbolic visits are not substitutes for consistent engagement.

The Fire Next Door

Nepal today is not merely another troubled neighbour. It is a mirror. Its tragedy is a warning to all of us in Northeast India: unchecked corruption, political arrogance, and disdain for the people will eventually ignite a fire no amount of policing can extinguish.

The youth of the Northeast - resilient, creative, and connected - deserve better. They do not want to torch their homeland; they want to rebuild it. But if denied dignity, justice, and opportunity, even the most patient among them may one day lose faith in the system altogether.

Political power is not inheritance. Public money is not private wealth. Leaders must internalise this not as rhetoric, but as a guiding principle. If they will not clean their act for ethical reasons, then let them at least do so for self-preservation. Because the storm is no longer on the horizon. It is already here, just across the border.

A Final Word

To my friends in Nepal: may you find the courage to rebuild from these ashes, and may your youth write a new chapter for the Himalayas.

And to my leaders in Northeast India: may you heed the warning before it is too late. For Nepal's tragedy is not a spectacle for us to watch with detached curiosity. It is a cautionary mirror held up to our own failings. And if we do not listen now, we may one day find ourselves watching not from afar, but from within the fire itself.

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Participate in NE India Writing Star Contest and get your writings published. Eligibility: From Class VI onwards. Each participants receives a digital participation certificates. Send articles at: info@krcfoundation.org
For Details Visit: https://bit.ly/NEIndiaWritingStarContest www.krcfoundation.org/campaigns-csr/ne-india-writing-star-contest

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5E, EVENTS & ADVERT

KRC FOUNDATION

BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ACTIVITY PROGRAM

12 JAN

NE Cultural Fest

Any form of Art and Cultural showcase can be [illegible]
The top performances will be invited to perform in the Main Event
Schools, Colleges, University Department, Individuals & Group Competition

11 JAN

Adventure Sports

Trekking & Camps, Obstacle Navigations, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management Techniques, Water Sports [illegible] people with skills to face the challenges in life, increase confidence and sense of purpose in one's life and [illegible] connected with nature.

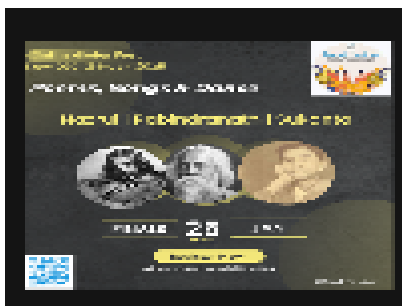
11 JAN

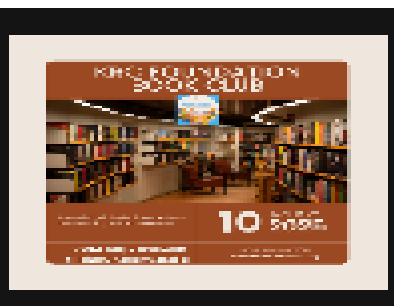
Barak Valley Conclave

Potential, Issues and Challenges of Barak Valley in relation with its stakeholders
Individuals, NGOs, and Organisations can register for [illegible] research, [illegible] and research [illegible] Participation is through invitation only & different awards are conducted

10 Jan

Barak Festival: Peace Progress & Prosperity





JAN'25

Online Global Fest

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

www.barakfestival.org
BarakFestival2025

KRC TIMES
BROADCAST PARTNER

REGISTER HERE

Contact
WP. 6721835519
info@krcfoundation.org

Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion

12 JAN

River-Climate Conclave

Classroom talks will deliberate on Climate Change, Pollution and Water Harvesting. The Conclave will focus on the [illegible] and preservation of River Barak. Painting & photography competition and exhibition on River Barak, Climate Change

10 JAN

Media Conclave

Media Conclave, Media Awards, Documentary, Call for Fund, Talks and Contests are part of the 'Barak Festival 2025'. Theme: 'One for All, All for One'.
Open for [illegible] students, journalists, media & communication professionals, [illegible] speakers, researchers

11 JAN

5E For Success Conclave

The 5E for Success Conclave is going to deliberate 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 & Colleges
Extempore (School) / Public Speaking (College)
[illegible] event where students of NE India Schools and Colleges can participate

10-12 JAN

Science Studio

Get a glimpse of science [illegible] from Jigyasa
Class VI-XI | Teachers | School Administrators | Parents

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

10-12 JAN

E-Sports

Facilitation for Dari Rocks | CASH PRIZES | Trophy

10-12 JAN

Book Bank

[illegible] Campaign Book Bank [illegible] House | [illegible]

Book Club

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

Painting Carnival

Water Conservation and Save River Campaign

DEC'24-JAN'25

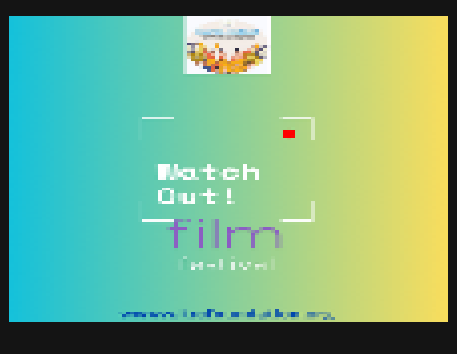
Photography

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

11 JAN

film festival

Award-Winning Documentary Film from Manipur
Short Films from Barak Valley, NE India, We
Media Talk | Felicitations | Meet the Filmmaker



www.barakfestival.org
BarakFestival2025

Barak Festival

Band Night 10 JAN
Musical Night 11 JAN

Contact
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