

Barak Festival
NE INDIA ADVENTURE SPORTS,
ART & CULTURE PROMOTION



Barak Valley, Assam | JAN-MAR 2025
www.krctimes.com
Mobile: 9721 8283 13

KRC TIMES

STAY-ENRICHED

North East Integration Rally
Peace | Progress | Prosperity
2026

Registrations
OPEN



www.northeastintegrationrally.in
+91 9353 083 085

VOLUME:1, ISSUE 594 | SILCHAR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025. EAST AND NE INDIA EDITION | e-mail: krctimes@gmail.com , www.krctimes.com

Get all the latest and updated news of today in the evening. For subscribing to this e-paper contact at -8721838313

SUBSCRIBE
₹300 / year



WhatsApp payment details : 8721838313
info@krctimes.com

PERSPECTIVE

Jadav Payeng, the "Forest Man of India," planted one tree after another, day after day, for decades, on a barren sandbar in Majuli island. The result is a thriving forest and ecosystem. But what inspires me is not just his crusade for the environment. His forest is a living monument to focus, patience, and purpose. In an age when we are surrounded by ADD and multitasking, he reminds us that relentless attention to one meaningful act can, over time, create miracles, not just for the planet, but for our own peace of mind. — Anand Mahindra, Chairman Mahindra Group

Two more Assamese NRIs from Singapore arrive at CID office for questioning into Zubeen Garg case

GUWAHATI
The investigation into the death of renowned singer Zubeen Garg has intensified, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) focusing on key individuals linked to a yacht party connected to the case. SIT chief and Special DGP of CID Munna Prasad Gupta while addressing the media on Tuesday, October 14 said that two more Assamese NRIs from Singapore - Abhimanyu Talukdar and Tanmoy Phukan have arrived at the CID office. As per sources, Tanmoy Phukan had reportedly booked the yacht, while Abhimanyu Talukdar, president of the Assam Association in Singapore, was notified before by Phukan about the yacht party. Today, both Phukan and Talukdar appeared at the CID office to cooperate with the investigation. Their statements are expected to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the yacht party and its possible connection to Garg's untimely death. To date, seven Assamese NRIs have provided statements to the SIT. Earlier this week, Rupkamal Kalita, Jalongat Narjari, Parikshit Sharma, and Siddharth Dora had appeared before investigators, with three NRIs subsequently giving testimony at the CJM court following SIT questioning. In the afternoon on October 13, Assamese NRI Bhaskarjyoti Dutta also reached the SIT office, undergoing interrogation until 2:35 pm. SIT officials continue to pursue all leads meticulously as part of a broader effort to establish the exact sequence of events surrounding the tragedy.

WHO SAID WHAT



My aim is to train 50,000 youth in the Japanese language and send them to Japan for work opportunities. In this direction, I am grateful to Mr. Nishikawa for reducing the fee of this programme drastically, effectively making it ₹30,000 after Govt subsidies
— Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam CM

No seat for BJP or any national party in TTAADC: Pradyot



AGARTALA
Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, royal scion and founder of the Tipra Motha Party, has set his sights on ensuring a regional party victory in the upcoming Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) elections, signalling a firm stand against national parties. Addressing a mass joining event at Rabindra Satabarshiki Bhavan in Agartala, where over 1,200 people, mostly former BJP members, joined Tipra Motha, Debbarma said, "If you want to earn money and fame, a national political party is the easiest way. But if you have come here for the betterment of upcoming generations, then a national party won't give Tiprasa that right." He emphasised the party's goal of electing an indigenous Chief Minister for Tripura and criticised national parties for sidelining local leadership. "There is not a single leader from BJP, Congress, or CPIM who has fought

for the Tiprasa. Not a single national party wants to make a Chief Minister from the indigenous community. They want a rubber stamp," he said. Debbarma also highlighted delays in local governance, noting that Village Council elections have been pending for nine years. "We have gone to the High Court. The judgment has also been given to conduct VC polls. The State Election Commission also said they would do it, but they didn't. Now I have moved to the Supreme Court, and I believe SC will give us justice," he added. The Tipra Motha chief accused the BJP of trying to weaken his party's influence. "In the coming TTAADC and VC elections, we will not give BJP a single seat and will defeat them. I want the regional party to win in TTAADC and will not allow a national party there," Debbarma said, drawing a parallel to Bodoland: "In Bodoland, the world's biggest party became the smallest party. If they want to be the biggest party, their heart must be big, but their heart is small."

Manipur Governor Congratulates Mr. Deaf India 2025 winner Veihriilo Lanah at Raj Bhavan



IMPHAL
Veihriilo Lanah, the winner of Mr. Deaf India 2025, called on Governor of Manipur, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, at Raj Bhavan, Imphal, on Tuesday, October 14. During the interaction, Lanah

sought the Governor's support to participate in the Mr. Deaf International Contest to be held in Genoa, Italy, from November 28 to December 8, 2025, where he will represent India on the global stage. Governor Bhalla congratulated Lanah on his remarkable achievement and commended his dedication toward promoting inclusivity and empowerment of persons with disabilities. He further expressed confidence that Lanah's participation in the international pageant would bring pride and recognition not only to Manipur but also to the entire nation. Veihriilo Lanah from Manipur, was the winner of the Mr. Deaf India 2025 title. He was crowned at the 12th edition of the national pageant held in Punjab from August 30-31, 2025.

12 executive members sworn In for 5th BTC executive council, two women inducted for the first time

KOKRAJHAR
A total of 12 Executive Members (EMs) of the 5th Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Executive Council took oath of office today, October 14 at a formal swearing-in ceremony held at the BTC Legislative Assembly premises in Kokrajhar. The oath of office was administered by Mukesh Kumar Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, following formal approval from the Governor. In a historic first for the BTC, two women members have been inducted into the Executive Council — a milestone that marks a progressive step towards inclusive representation and gender balance in the governance of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). The newly appointed Executive Members and their respective portfolios are as follows:
Mrityunjoy Narzary – Transport
Mumnu Brahma – Urban Development
Robiram Narzary – Education
Derhasat Basumatary – Health and Family Welfare
Prakash Basumatary – Social Welfare
Paniram Brahma – Forest and Wildlife
Dhiraj Borgoyari – Soil Conservation and Legal Metrology
Begum Akhtara Ahmed – Public Health Engineering (PHE)



Agustis Tigga – Animal Husbandry and Veterinary
Ganesh Kachari – Irrigation
Loumshrao Daimary – Land Revenue and Disaster Management
Fresh Mushahary – Water Resources
The ceremony witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including BTC Chief Hagrama Mohilary, Assam Cabinet Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah, BTC Legislative Assembly Speaker Tridip Daimary, and Deputy Chief Executive Member Rihon Daimary. The Bodoland People's Front (BPF), which secured a clear majority with 28 seats in the recently concluded BTC elections, has formed the new government independently.

Nagaland govt offices hit as JCC begins 3-day pen-down strike

KOHIMA
The Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), comprising five major employees' associations, on Tuesday, began their three-day pen-down strike, paralysing the functioning of the Nagaland government offices across the state. The JCC launched the strike to demand the withdrawal of a move to include a non-NCS officer for induction into the IAS cadre. The controversy began after the state government recalled its March 10 vacancy circular, allegedly to accommodate a non-state cadre officer for IAS induction. Employee associations have urged the government to adhere to its Office Memorandums of 2001 and 2016, which mandate that such recruitment be conducted through open advertisement by the Nagaland Public Service Commission. The JCC comprises of Confederation of All Nagaland State Services Employees Association (CANSSEA), Nagaland In-Service Doctors Association (NIDA), Nagaland Secretariat Service Association (NSSA), Nagaland Finance and Accounts Service Association (NF&ASA), and Federation of Nagaland State Engineering Service Association (FONSESA). Also Read - India plans Rs 6.4L crore project to transmit 76 GW from Brahmaputra hydro projects "In March 2025, the government issued a vacancy circular giving 15 days for applications. Eleven applicants submitted, but on the 16th day, the government recalled the circular," said CANSSEA president Zubemo Lotha Tsanglao. Despite repeated protests, including black badge and poster campaigns, the government has reportedly not initiated any dialogue with the associations. Frustrated by the continued silence, the JCC launched the third phase of agitation; a pen-down strike from Tuesday to Thursday. A JCC spokesperson said that while employees are attending offices across districts and headquarters, they have put down their pens as a symbolic protest to uphold meritocracy and protect the future of Naga youth. He added that offices have displayed banners reading "Meritocracy in IAS induction; not backdoor entry." The spokesperson further said that even after the launch of the third phase of agitation, the government has neither responded to their demands nor issued any memo against the strike. Meanwhile, efforts to reach government officials for clarification went unanswered. However, sources indicated that the State Cabinet is likely to hold a meeting on Wednesday to deliberate on the issue.



Centre unveils Rs.6.4 lakh crore push to harness Brahmaputra's power, transmit 76 GW across India

NEW DELHI
India's Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has proposed a Rs 6.4-lakh-crore plan to build a massive network of transmission lines to carry over 76 gigawatts of hydropower from Brahmaputra projects by 2047, aiming to meet rising energy demand and cut coal dependence. In a report released on Monday, the CEA said the plan covers as many as 208 large hydro projects across 12 sub-basins in the northeastern states, with 64.9 GW of potential capacity and an additional 11.1 GW from pumped-storage plants. Phase I of the plan, which is to be implemented till 2035, will require Rs 1.91 lakh crore, while Phase II will cost Rs 4.52 lakh crore, according to the CEA's estimates. The plan entails adding over 31,000 circuit kilometres of transmission lines, installing 68 gigavolt-amperes (GVA) of transformation capacity and building 42 GW of high-voltage direct current (HVDC) carrying capacity. The CEA plan includes projects allocated to central public sector utilities



such as the NHPC, the NEEPCO, and the SJVN, with some projects already in the pipeline. The Brahmaputra, which originates in Tibet, flows across Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, and West Bengal, and holds more than 80% of India's untapped hydro potential, with Arunachal Pradesh alone accounting for 52.2 GW, the report states. India aims to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels by having 500 GW of non-fossil power generation capacity by 2030 and becoming net zero by 2070. The project is crucial for India to meet its growing electricity demand and transition away from fossil fuels. It also addresses the strategic concerns posed by China's construction of a mega-dam on the Brahmaputra, which could adversely impact downstream water flow through India. CEA's plan for the Indian basin of the river is a strategic response, demonstrating the country's intent to develop its own hydro potential and asserting its water rights. The move is also critical for achieving India's renewable energy goals.

Nagaland students' body backs state enumeration drive, warns of illegal migration threats

KOHIMA
The Naga Students' Federation has thrown its weight behind Nagaland's controversial enumeration exercise, characterising it as essential for protecting residents' rights and addressing what it describes as unchecked illegal entry into the state. The exercise aims to identify residents who settled in Nagaland before December 1, 1963, and their direct descendants—a criterion designed to establish eligibility for state-specific benefits and privileges. However, the initiative faces significant resistance. The NSF expressed concern that four concerned tribes are refusing to participate in the process, raising questions about the enumeration's legitimacy and reception across the state. "The exercise must not be seen as a divisive or discriminatory act, but as a necessary step toward clarity, fairness and administrative integrity," the federation stated. According to the NSF, illegal migration presents a mounting challenge. The organisation claims that non-Nagans continue entering the state illegally and have obtained official state-recognised certificates while accessing quotas and privileges designated exclusively for inhabitants. The federation has called for stricter enforcement of the Inner Line Regulation—a colonial-era law restricting land ownership and residency rights—and enhanced border vigilance to prevent unauthorised entry. The NSF also addressed criticism directed at the Inner Line Regulation Commission, the body overseeing the enumeration. Some political observers have dismissed the commission as merely a committee, but the NSF defended its legitimacy. "The ILRC was constituted by the highest decision-making authority of the Naga Students' Federation, the Federal Assembly, and carries the collective mandate of all the federating units of NSF," the organisation stated. The federation emphasised that the commission emerged from decades of institutional experience and constitutional guidance, citing persistent failures in implementing migration restrictions.



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 594-

URGENCY FOR A NEW WORLD FORUM

The United Nations, created in 1945 to embody the hope of a war-torn world for peace, security and cooperation, is today facing one of the gravest crises of legitimacy in its history, appearing to many as a powerless body that has lost its authority to act decisively in moments of global urgency. Established on the foundation of a post-World War II order, the organization still reflects the geopolitics of that era, when the victors of the war—the United States, the Soviet Union (now represented by Russia), the United Kingdom, France and China—were accorded permanent membership and veto power in the Security Council, while the rest of the world, including entire continents like Africa and regions such as South Asia and Latin America, were consigned to the margins of decision-making. This structural rigidity has become the UN's greatest weakness in the twenty-first century, for the world of 2025 is profoundly different from the world of 1945. India is now the most populous country in the world and the fifth-largest economy. Africa is home to over 1.4 billion people and some of the fastest-growing economies. Latin America has emerged as a major player in trade and energy and Asia has become the central driver of the global economy. Yet none of these regions have permanent representation on the Security Council, which continues to monopolize global governance through the outdated authority of the P5, rendering the body illegitimate in the eyes of billions of people who are excluded from decisions that shape their lives. The problem is compounded by the veto system, which has often paralyzed the Security Council at critical moments; time and again, the veto has been used not to defend global peace but to safeguard narrow national interests, turning the Council into a stage for geopolitical rivalry rather than a mechanism for conflict resolution. Whether it was the prolonged tragedy of Syria, the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine or the renewed violence in Israel-Palestine, the UN has been conspicuous for its inaction, trapped in stalemates created by the veto and unable to intervene with credibility or effectiveness, leaving millions of innocent lives at the mercy of unilateral actions and regional wars. Beyond conventional conflicts, the UN has also failed to rise to the new challenges of the twenty-first century, such as climate change, pandemics, cyber warfare, terrorism and economic inequality.

Its climate summits generate high-sounding declarations but rarely enforce binding action; its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic exposed weaknesses in coordination and reliance on a few powerful states; and its bureaucracy often stifles timely response to emergencies. As a result, the UN has increasingly become a platform for symbolic speeches rather than decisive outcomes and its credibility has eroded in both the Global North and Global South, with many countries viewing it as a forum that lacks moral authority, beholden to donor funding and selective interventions. This widespread disillusionment has led to the recognition that if the UN cannot adapt, there is an urgent need to create a new world forum that can represent the realities of our times and restore trust in global governance. Such a body must be inclusive, multipolar and responsive to contemporary threats; it must reflect demographic realities by giving permanent and equal voice to India, Africa and Latin America; it must promote cooperation on climate action, digital security, equitable trade and counterterrorism with binding mechanisms rather than mere recommendations; it must dilute or eliminate veto power so that the paralysis of one country does not hold the world hostage; and most importantly, it must reclaim moral authority by embodying fairness, equity and justice, principles that the UN has increasingly failed to uphold. In this new framework, India is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role. With over 1.4 billion people, India's demographic weight alone makes its exclusion from the UN Security Council indefensible, but beyond numbers, India is also the fifth-largest economy, a hub of digital innovation and a global leader in pharmaceuticals, space research and renewable energy.

India's civilizational heritage emphasizes dialogue, non-violence and inclusivity, principles articulated by figures like Gandhi and Vivekananda and these values are urgently needed to heal a fragmented world. Unlike many other powers, India has the rare ability to bridge divides between the developed and developing worlds: it maintains strong partnerships with Western democracies while also sharing historical solidarity with Asia, Africa and Latin America. This makes India not only a natural candidate for leadership but also a credible mediator in global disputes. India's leadership during its G20 Presidency in 2023 demonstrated its capacity to harmonize diverse voices, most notably by bringing the African Union into the G20 as a permanent member, a historic move that reflects precisely the inclusivity and reform the global order needs. A new world forum that builds on such examples could emerge through the institutional expansion of BRICS into BRICS+, through coalitions of the Global South or even through radical reforms within the UN if possible, though the resistance of the P5 makes that path unlikely. Of course, the creation of a new body faces challenges, including resistance from existing powers unwilling to relinquish privilege, fragmentation among developing nations who may struggle to present a united front, the immense costs of establishing parallel institutions and the risks of transition in a world already facing instability. Yet these challenges cannot be excuses for inaction, for the alternative is a continued reliance on a system that is paralyzed, unrepresentative and increasingly irrelevant.

The way forward lies in India joining hands with Africa and Latin America to form an alliance that demands structural change, building on experiences like the G20 and BRICS, drafting a charter of cooperation that prioritizes urgent twenty-first-century challenges and gradually channelling resources away from ineffective UN structures toward a new multipolar institution. Such a forum could restore the faith of billions of people in the possibility of a fair and effective global order, one that is not bound by the shadows of 1945 but inspired by the realities of today and the hopes of tomorrow. The United Nations, once a beacon of post-war hope, has become in many respects a "joker" in international affairs, presiding over crises it cannot resolve and watching as threats escalate without effective intervention. If the UN cannot reform, the world must move beyond it. And India must seize this moment to lead.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

If the wicked flourish and the fittest survive, Nature must be the god of rascals. - George Bernard Shaw

Northeast India and the need for integration

DR. THANGJAM DHABALI SINGH MD



INTRODUCTION

Northeast India, comprising eight states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram,

tion. However, its demographic profile is marked by an astonishing diversity. The region is home to hundreds of ethnic groups and tribes, each with its own unique languages, customs, and social systems.

Christianity is a major religion in states like Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya, while Hinduism, Islam, and indigenous faiths are also prevalent. The multiplicity of languages—over 220 distinct languages and dialects—demonstrates the rich cultural heritage. Nevertheless, this diversity poses challenges to social cohesion and, at times, has resulted in friction and conflict.

Historical Context and Political Aspect

Traditionally, the Northeast had distinct historical trajectories. The Ahom dynasty in Assam, tribal chiefdoms in Nagaland and Mizoram, Manipur's kingdom, and princely states like Tripura and Sikkim had their own distinct political systems

secessionist movements, demanding greater autonomy or outright independence (e.g., in Nagaland, Manipur, Assam), have resulted in decades of armed conflict, prompting heavy military and paramilitary presence and the imposition of laws such as the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA).

At the same time, Northeast India is at the heart of India's Look East/Act East Policy, intended to foster links with Southeast Asian economies. Improved connectivity—such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway—and greater participation in regional groupings like BIMSTEC present new opportunities for economic integration and growth.

The Need for Integration: Challenges and the Road Ahead
Integration, in this context, is not merely about administrative or territorial unity but about inclusive development, equal opportunity, and respect for local cultures and aspira-

Asia through trade, energy cooperation, and cultural ties can convert Northeast India's identity from a "frontier" to a vital bridge.

Conclusion
The integration of Northeast India presents both challenges and opportunities. Its geography and demography, while contributing to its uniqueness, also provide lessons for India's unity in diversity. Effective integration requires a balanced approach that promotes growth, maintains identity, ensures security, and fosters a sense of belonging. Only then can the Northeast truly become a united, dynamic part of India's story in the 21st century.

Dr. Thangjam Dhabali Singh MD
Chairman & Managing Director,
BABINA Group, Imphal, Manipur
Introduction

DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

We welcome the release of all hostages after over two years of captivity. Their freedom stands as a tribute to the courage of their families, the unwavering peace efforts of President Trump and the strong resolve of Prime Minister Netanyahu. We support President Trump's sincere efforts to bring peace to the region.

~ Narendra Modi,
PM, India
@POTUS

@realDonaldTrump

@netanyahu



Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—holds a special place in the Indian subcontinent. The process of integration among the Northeast states has become a key focus for policymakers. Understanding the complexities of Northeast India's integration requires a multidimensional approach that considers geography, demography, diversity, political factors, geopolitics, and the urgent need for unity.

Geography: The Land and Its Challenges

Northeast India is often described as a land of rolling hills, lush valleys, snow-capped mountains, and mighty rivers. Spread over approximately 262,000 sq. km (about 8% of India's total area), the region is geographically separated from central India by the narrow Siliguri Corridor (often called the Chicken's Neck), a strip of land only about 22 kilometres wide at its narrowest point. The region's terrain is mostly hilly and forested, making connectivity with the rest of India challenging. It shares international borders with China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. This unique geography has not only shaped the livelihoods, culture, and settlement patterns of its people but has also contributed to its strategic significance.

Demography and Diversity: A Tapestry of Communities

The Northeast is home to approximately 45 million people, accounting for just 3-4% of India's total popula-

tion. Several challenges need to be addressed:
1. Infrastructure and Connectivity: Despite major projects, road, rail, and digital links remain weak compared to the rest of India. Poor connectivity hinders economic growth and exacerbates the sense of isolation.
2. Social Cohesion and Identity: Unity cannot come at the cost of erasing identities. Integration must be based on the recognition of ethnic diversity, linguistic plurality, and unique cultural traditions. Dialogues, cultural exchanges, and educational initiatives are essential.

3. Political Empowerment: Ensuring effective governance, transparency, and representation is vital. Implementing decentralisation, respecting local political structures, and addressing grievances promptly fosters trust among one another.
4. Security and Stability: Addressing security concerns requires a nuanced approach, moving beyond militarisation to dialogue, negotiations, and targeted socio-economic interventions.
5. Economic Development: Special economic zones, organic farming, eco-tourism, and tapping into cross-border trade potential can transform the region. Skill development, education, and health remain fundamental long-term needs.
6. Geopolitical Engagement: Leveraging the strategic location for regional integration with Southeast

before colonisation. British administration brought these varied polities under a loosely unified structure, but even during the colonial era, the region was governed with a degree of autonomy. The Inner Line Permit and other special administrative provisions separated "excluded" or "partially excluded" areas from direct colonial administration.
With independence and the creation of the Indian Union, most of the region's states were gradually integrated through a mix of negotiations, constitutional provisions (e.g., Sixth Schedule, Article 371), and, occasionally, military intervention. Despite this, demands for autonomy or outright independence have persisted, fuelled by a sense of ethnic distinctiveness, perceived neglect, and issues like inadequate infrastructure, unemployment, and migration.

Geopolitics: Strategic Significance and Security Dilemma
Northeast India's location endows it with immense geostrategic importance. Sharing more than 90% of its border with neighbouring countries, the area is key to India's relations with Southeast Asia and serves as a counterbalance to the strategic moves of China and other regional players. The 1962 Sino-Indian War highlighted vulnerabilities in the region, especially in Arunachal Pradesh.

Insurgency, migration and cross-border ethnic ties have often created security challenges. Various

GEN-Z V/S NEPOKIDS IN THE VIBRANT INDIAN SOCIO-POLITICAL SCENARIO

ASHWANI KUMAR CHRUNGGO

The recent socio-political developments in Nepal have been discussed in various contexts in India. Some narratives see these developments in a series of events taking place in our neighbourhood for the last few years. Prominent among them are the political upheavals happening in Pakistan, Myanmar, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and now in Nepal. Many commentators see foreign hand and the intervention of the deep state in these developments. However, some others call these upheavals indigenously constructed or manufactured and locally nurtured by the younger generation (which they term as Gen-Z) of the respective nations.

Pakistan is a semi-military and semi-democratic republic where the centres of power keep playing the musical chair 24x7x365 days. Having obsessed with the Islamic terrorism on the one hand, it is also in a race with the other banana republics who keep on asking for funds with the begging bowl in their hand before every nation with whom it has religious or strategic relationship. Practically it is a failed nation that is dependent upon imports for virtually everything that has the potential to run the polity of the nation. Terrorism, regional tensions, violence and killings in Balochistan and Khaiber Pakhtoon Khua are a routine matter for Pakistan. De jure Pakistan has an elected government but de facto it has a military regime where a failed Army General, masquerading as a super political figure, has been awarded the position of a Field Marshal without winning even a single war.

There have been instances in all the above referred countries in our neighbourhood where changes/s in the government took place following strong public uprising/s'. People in these countries besides exercising their political options for the change went for street protests, processions, large & medium-scale violence and destruction. What happened in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal is noteworthy in this context. While people and particularly the uncontrolled younger generations went berserk and even entered the highest seats of power like PM's office and residence, parliament, President's residence and office and even Supreme Court of the respective nations, large scale loot and destruction was brought in these highly sensitive political centres. For all practical purposes, these developments have also downgraded the economic, political, social and security related status of the nations involved in these upheavals.

Wide-spread mayhem and arson were seen even in other major cities and towns in the affected nations during these violent protests. In Bangladesh, people including government officers and policemen were thrashed, beaten to death and hanged publicly by the unruly rampaging mobs. The symbols of national icons were desecrated and destroyed without any remorse or repentance. Hindu minorities in particular became the victim of the targeted violence unleashed by the mobs in which a number of them were killed, their homes and business houses looted and burnt and even the places of worship destroyed. The Hindu

and Buddhist minorities in Bangladesh in various districts were compelled to come on streets and protest against the lawlessness and the communal outrage consequent upon grave human rights violations against them and pointed attacks on their womenfolk. It is often said that the American deep state was involved in Bangladesh in the 'uprising' against the Sheikh Hasina Government which she confirmed in her statement after the coup when she was whisked away by the army in Bangladesh and safely brought to India. Bangladesh has been a big recipient of funds from abroad through the government and the non-governmental channels for several decades on one pretext or the other. The influences these foreign funds carried along with them over the last several decades have played their role and caused great havoc in the socio-political scenario of the country. The current Chief Advisor of Bangladesh government, Mohammad Yunus is a recognised face of these influences and intrigues. Sri Lanka was no less 'unfortunate' in this connection. Barring any communal insinuations, the mobs went for rampage and made their entry into the important centres of national recognition including the President's palace. People all over the world watched Sri Lankan youth destroying their own nation by their actions. China's influences in Sri Lanka are an open secret and these have made Sri Lanka a big debtor of China for several decades to come. Like Maldives, Sri Lanka also turned towards India for help and support in the economic field. Its political and economic instability caused a great

concern to its people in the island nation and it will be poised to fight for a long time in the next course of time against this instability. Nepal has emerged as the latest nation to get destroyed internally due to the orchestrated public anger against the government and the people in power in the government. The political and other influences in Nepal from its neighbouring nation in the north, China, are well known. The utter failure of the governments led by the Nepali Congress and the Communist-Maoist parties over the last two decades post monarchy era is seen as a major cause of the public uprising in Nepal. Its connections with elements outside the country are also established who worked for a change in the establishment. The most tragic and deplorable act of attacking Pashupatinath Temple signalled towards the activity of the jihadi elements in Nepal and especially in Kathmandu.

The irony is that Nepal has seen a dozen Prime Ministers within a period of two decades coupled with change of governments so frequently. This scenario thus pushed the political and economic stability of the nation into a big quagmire of questions. However, the organisers and the protesters in Nepal squarely blamed the pampered and the specially treated kiths and kins of the politicians in the government for the public anger. They called this big band of sons, daughters and other kith & kin of politicians as Nepokids, who were and are nurtured on nepotism towards them. Many of this particular tribe are accused of lavishing in foreign countries at the expense of the tax-payers in Nepal.

Tripura emerges as startup powerhouse, records 66 per cent growth over past five years

AGARTALA

Tripura is fast becoming a major force in India's startup landscape, posting an impressive 66 per cent average growth in startup recognitions over the past five years. The state's progress was spotlighted at the Tamil Nadu Global Startup Summit 2025, held at the CODISSIA Trade Fair Complex in Coimbatore, where over Rs 100 crore in investment commitments were announced.

The event drew 71,000+ visitors and over 20 global startup stakeholders, underlining the growing momentum of India's innovation ecosystem.

Organised by StartupTN, the summit provided a platform for investors, entrepreneurs, and policymakers to collaborate on strategies shaping India's entrepreneurial future.

Delivering a keynote address, Jeya Ragul Geshan B,



IFS, Director of IT, Government of Tripura, highlighted how the state has rapidly evolved into a regional leader in innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Tripura stands at an important inflexion point. In alignment with the Prime Minister's vision of a \$5 trillion economy by 2028 and achieving Vikshit Bharat by 2047, we are determined to play a strategic role in India's innovation-led growth story under the leadership of our Chief Minister, Manik Saha," said Geshan.

He added that the state's goal is to create an "Unnato and Shreshtho Tripura," where entrepreneurship becomes a tool for inclusive prosperity. "While each state may be at a different stage of its startup journey, our common goal is to democratise innovation and extend opportunity to every corner of India, including smaller and border states like ours," he said.

According to the Startup India report Prabhav: Startup India 9-Year Factbook (December 2024), Tripura leads in

two significant areas — top-performing Tier 2/3 districts and the highest number of women-led startups in the Northeast. "These results prove that consistency, clarity, and collaboration can transform intent into impact," Geshan noted.

Tripura was among the first Northeastern states to introduce a Startup Policy in 2019, establishing a foundation for sustained entrepreneurial growth. Recognised as a Category B — Leader in the Startup India State Ranking 2022, the state recently launched the Tripura Startup Policy 2024, backed by a Rs 50 crore fund for entrepreneurs. The new policy offers grants for student startups, incubators, and patent support to promote innovation.

Currently, Tripura hosts over 80 recognised startups and eight active incubators, including the ISRO-supported Space Tech Incubation Centre at NIT

Agartala and the Tripura University Business Incubator. Together, these institutions form a growing ecosystem that supports entrepreneurs from idea to scale.

"Our goal is to blend IT with entrepreneurship, empowering every district with digital tools, startup resources, and market access," Geshan said. "Tripura is not waiting for change; we are continuously building momentum, adding capacity, and moving decisively on the path of progress. Tripura may be small, but our intent is always BIG. Innovation does not need to be metro-centric — it needs to be mission-driven."

With sustained policy support and growing investor confidence, Tripura is positioning itself as a model for how smaller states can drive innovation, inclusion, and economic transformation in India's startup journey.

Government employee among 4 arrested from gambling den in Ramkrishnanagar



SHRIBHUMI

Four individuals, including a government employee, were detained by local residents from an alleged gambling den in Ramkrishnanagar and later handed over to the police.

According to sources, illegal gambling and other antisocial activities had been ongoing for an extended period at the residence of one Amit Ghosh. Acting on mounting suspicion, vigilant locals assembled at night, surrounded the house, and upon entering, discovered several

men engaged in gambling and alcohol consumption. While a few managed to escape, four individuals were apprehended after a chase and promptly handed over to the authorities.

A police team rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control. The arrested individuals have been identified as Prakash Chakrabarti, senior clerk at the Ramkrishnanagar Circle Officer's office, R.N. Chiak, Madhai Ghosh, Abdul Jalil, and Amit Ghosh, the homeowner. Police also seized several vehicles suspected to be linked with the operation.

The incident has stirred sharp public resentment, with residents expressing discontent over the alleged inaction of the Ramkrishnanagar Police despite long-standing complaints about such illicit activities. Locals have urged stricter surveillance and immediate measures to curb the spread of gambling and related offences in the area.

An investigation into the case has been initiated.

Tripura CM meets Nirmala Sitharaman to discuss raising EAP ceiling

NEW DELHI

Tripura Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Manik Saha on Monday met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi to discuss the need for enhancing the ceiling limit for Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) in the state.

In a post on X, Dr. Saha wrote, "Met Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji in New Delhi today. Discussed the need for enhancing the ceiling limit of Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), since a number of crucial projects under Urban Development, Tourism, and the Agartala Municipal Corporation are awaiting progress due to the present ceiling restriction."

According to the Chief Minister, the meeting focused on the importance of accelerating key infrastructure and development projects in Tripura that have been constrained by the existing EAP limits. Raising the ceiling is expected to enable faster implementation of initiatives related to urban development, tourism, and municipal infrastructure in Agartala and other parts of the state.

In addition to his meeting with the Finance Minister, Dr. Saha also called on BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

The Chief Minister's meetings reflect the Tripura government's continued efforts to secure enhanced financial and administrative support from the Centre for the state's development priorities.

Sikkim: Citizen Action Party alleges SKM behind assault on VP Kiran Zimba



GANGTOK

Tensions flared in Sikkim's political landscape after unidentified miscreants allegedly assaulted Kiran Zimba, Vice President of the Citizen Action Party-Sikkim (CAPS), in Rhenock on Monday.

The incident has sparked outrage within CAPS, which has openly accused the ruling Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) of orchestrating the assault.

Describing the attack as "barbaric and cowardly," CAPS

claimed the act reflects deep insecurity and desperation among those holding power.

The party urged law enforcement authorities and the state government to act swiftly and bring the perpetrators to justice.

"Democracy cannot survive in an environment of fear and violence," CAPS stated in an official release. "This attack doesn't just target an individual, it threatens the very foundation of political freedom and public safety."

Zimba, who sustained serious injuries during the assault, is currently receiving medical treatment.

Police have begun a formal investigation into the incident, though no arrests have been confirmed so far.

CAPS also called on the people of Sikkim to take a firm stand against political violence, warning that such incidents could become the norm if not collectively condemned.

Tea tribe workers rally across Assam demanding ST status, wage hike, and land rights

GUWAHATI

A massive protest rocked Dibrugarh on October 13 as thousands from Assam's tea tribe and Adivasi communities took to the streets demanding Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, a daily wage hike, and legal land ownership.

Protesters from across the district converged at the Chowkidinghee intersection after marching from four major points, causing heavy traffic congestion throughout the day. Anticipating disruptions, several schools declared a holiday, officials confirmed.

The rally paralysed operations across 218 tea estates, 24,000 small growers' plantations, and 70 bought-leaf factories as workers joined the demonstration. The protest was jointly organised by the Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS), Assam Tea Tribes Students' As-



sociation (ATTSA), All Adivasi Students' Association of Assam (AASAA), 36 Janajati Parishad, and Chah Jonogustiyo Jatiya Mahasabha.

Addressing the gathering, ATTSA president Dhiraj Gowa said, "Despite being one of the largest communities in the state, we remain the most deprived. The BJP has used our support to win elections, yet it fails to deliver justice." He questioned why land could be allotted for party offices and private projects inside tea estates while

"landless tea workers are denied legal rights."

ACMS Dibrugarh secretary Nabin Chandra Keot alleged that even after 78 years of Independence, tea tribes and Adivasis continue to live in poverty. He described the three core demands — ST status, a minimum daily wage of Rs 551, and land rights — as "non-negotiable," warning that failure to meet them before the 2026 Assembly elections "could cost the government dearly."

Former Union minister and

five-time Congress MP Paban Singh Ghatowar also extended his support, urging the state government to act immediately.

Organisers announced that similar protests will soon be held in every district of Assam to intensify pressure on the government. Demands for ST status have been pending for years from several communities, including the Moran, Motok, Chutia, Tai-Ahom, Koch-Rajbongshi, and Tea Tribes. Despite repeated assurances from senior BJP leaders, the issue remains unresolved.

The Dibrugarh protest follows a similar rally in Tinsukia on October 8, where thousands of tea tribe workers gathered with the same demands. Earlier, on September 28, members of the Motok community held a torchlight march in Sadiya, calling for ST status and the upgrade of their autonomous council.

"Government may keep its formal niceties to itself": Rahul Gautam Sharma declines SIT invite, demands justice for Zubeen



GUWAHATI

Noted lyricist and close associate of the late singer Zubeen Garg, Rahul Gautam Sharma, has declined the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) invitation for discussion.

In a Facebook post, Sharma clarified his decision, stressing that the pursuit of justice, not publicity or political theatrics, must remain the sole focus of the investigation.

Sharma in his Facebook post mentioned, "Deliver justice to Zubeen Garg. Let the

investigating agency submit an accurate report before the court. Beyond that, we shall not entertain any other narrative. The government may keep its formal niceties to itself." Sharma's SIT invite decline follows soon after several other dignitaries including AASU leaders, noted writer, senior journalist opted out of the SIT discussion into Zubeen Garg's death probe.

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU), also formally declined the SIT's invitation for a joint meeting regarding the case. In a statement

issued on Monday, AASU president Utpal Sharma, general secretary Samiran Phukan, and chief advisor Dr. Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharjya said the organization consciously chose not to attend the meeting to ensure that the accused do not exploit AASU's participation to gain any legal advantage in court proceedings.

The union further clarified that its decision was conveyed to the SIT in writing after detailed consultations with senior advocates and jurists from the Gauhati High Court.

Mizoram police grapples with severe shortage as 3,647 posts remain vacant: Home Minister

AIZAWL

Home Minister K Sapdanga revealed that the Mizoram Police Department is operating with a critical shortage of personnel, with 3,647 vacant positions and approximately 200 new openings every year due to retirements and deaths.

Speaking at the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Mizoram Journalist Association in Serchhip District on Monday, Sapdanga highlighted the scale of the staffing crisis facing the state's law enforcement. "The shortage of police personnel is very serious. We cannot simply transfer officers around to fill the gap, as it affects internal balance and efficiency. The recruitment process must strictly follow the law," he said.

The minister attributed the prolonged understaffing to legal and constitutional obstacles that have hampered recruitment since 2021. These delays have left police departments across the state stretched thin, forcing difficult operational choices.

The state government is now coordinating with the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DP&AR) and the Law Department to accelerate the hiring process. The Home Department has

proposed recruiting 1,100 additional personnel to address the shortfall. So far, DP&AR and the Law Department have approved 250 posts, with a survey underway from Police Headquarters to assess manpower requirements across all districts.

Beyond staffing, Sapdanga identified poor conditions at police housing facilities as another pressing concern. "We are collecting reports on the state of police housing, and we expect a complete report by November for necessary repair and maintenance work," the minister said.

In other announcements, Sapdanga revealed that the state is moving ahead with plans to establish a Mizo Territorial Army. Recruitment advertisements are expected within the next month. The government has doubled the initial target from 75 to 150 posts following requests from district leaders.

Earlier in the day, Sapdanga met with Serchhip ZPM party leaders at their district office to discuss development priorities. He assured the leaders that the government would continue working to address the district's concerns and improve community development initiatives.

Nagaland launches Command and Control Center to boost soil health management

KOHIMA

A new Command and Control Centre (CCC) designed to enhance data-driven agricultural management and farmer outreach was commissioned at the Directorate of Soil & Water Conservation, Kohima, by Advisor for IPR and Soil & Water Conservation, Imkong L. Imchen, on October 13.

The tech-based centre, funded jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, and the Government of Nagaland under the Soil Health and Fertility component of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), aims to provide real-time insights on soil conditions and crop health. It will also serve as a direct communication hub between farmers and officials through a toll-free number (+91 7965192504) for soil and fertility-related queries.

Speaking at the launch, Imchen said the centre would ease the workload of field staff while improving decision-making and problem-solving for farmers. He emphasised the importance of bridging the gap between



experts and cultivators through transparent and accessible communication. "Trust between officers and farmers is

vital for the department's progress and for adopting innovative technologies in sustainable soil and water manage-

ment," he stated.

The advisor also pointed out the limited budget allocation to the department, noting that despite having skilled officers and the capacity to execute projects effectively, financial constraints had hindered its growth.

Director of Soil & Water Conservation, L. Chubaonen, provided a technical overview of the new centre. He said the CCC was developed as a centralised digital hub to strengthen real-time monitoring, coordination, and decision-making across the state. The system integrates ICT tools and GIS platforms to track soil fertility trends, generate fertiliser recommendations, and manage soil health card data.

The facility is equipped with a dedicated data server, GIS mapping software, video conferencing tools, and connected workstations to streamline communication between the Ministry, district units, and field officers. According to Chubaonen, the initiative is expected to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in implementing soil health programs while building a state-wide digital soil health repository.

The event also featured the virtual inauguration of Bio Fertiliser Production Units at Rotomi and Seyochung, further expanding the state's efforts to promote sustainable farming practices.

Quest!

Nearly 1 billion people will go to bed hungry tonight.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Join as an Intern@ North East Integration Rally 2026

WHO CAN JOIN

- HS to PG Students

WHAT YOU GET

- Certificates + Paid Internship*
- KRC Placement Mentorship

APPLY NOW

<https://bit.ly/nejrinternshipform>

Eseforsuccess@gmail.com

9330830083 www.northeastintegrationrally.in

More than half of defence modernisation budget for FY26 used by end of September



NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has utilised more than 50% of the capital outlay for the 2025-26 financial year by the end of September 2025.

This will result in ensuring timely delivery of vital platforms including aircraft, ships, submarines and weapons systems required for the modernisation of the armed forces in the coming year, said the MoD.

The majority of the expenditure has been on aircraft and aero engines followed by land systems, electronic warfare equipment, armaments, and projectiles. Capital expenditure is crucial for the defence sector as it funds the acquisition of new assets, research & development, and infrastructural development in the border areas, which are

all essential for the country's national security.

In absolute terms, the capital expenditure used stands at Rs 92,211.44 crore (51.23%) out of the total allocation of Rs 1,80,000 crore. The MoD had utilised 100% of capital expenditure amounting to Rs 1,59,768.40 crore in the last financial year.

As reported earlier by The New Indian Express (TNIE), the defence budget allocated by the government for 2025-26 has been pegged at Rs 6,81,210.27 crore.

The budgetary allocations are broadly categorised under the capital and revenue subheads.

Capital outlay is for fresh purchases of systems, equipment and raising of military infrastructure. Allocation to the armed forces for revenue expenditure (other than sal-

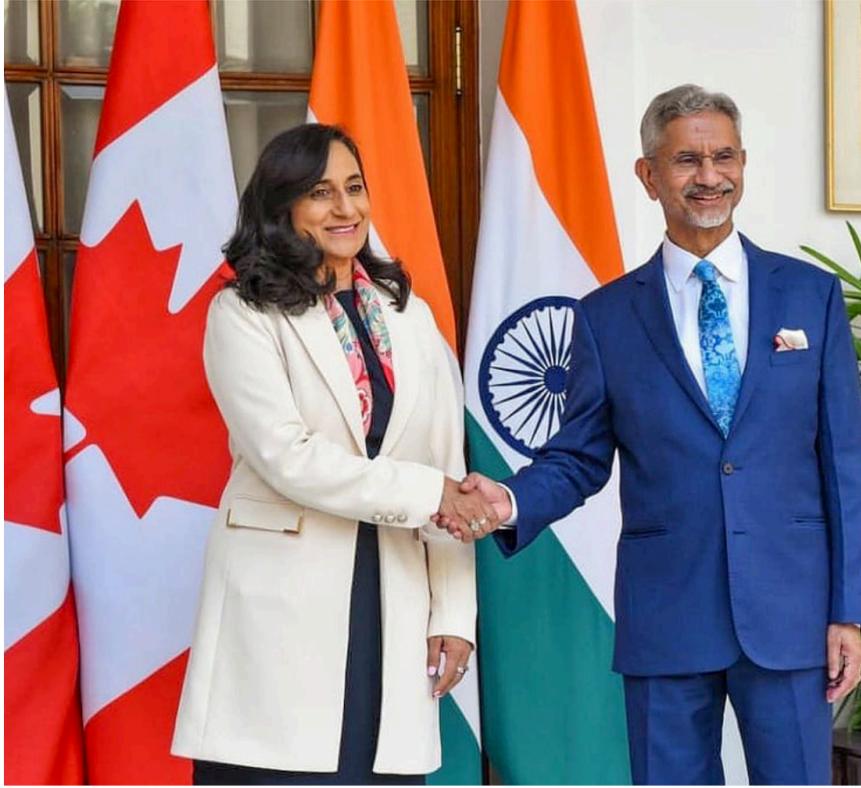
ary) is meant for sustenance and operational commitment.

Moreover, capital expenditure has a multiplier effect on economic growth and employment generation.

With this pace of expenditure and big-ticket projects which are at advanced stages of approval, the MoD is committed to fully utilising the allocation under capital head by the end of the current FY also. In parallel, the ministry is working on the budgetary projections to be discussed for the revised estimates. In the current FY, the MoD had been allocated Rs 1,80,000 crore under capital head at the Budget Estimate stage by the Ministry of Finance. This allocation was 12.66% higher than the actual expenditure of FY 2024-25.

Since FY 2020-21, the MoD has been consistently strengthening the domestic industry by earmarking funds for procurement from them. For FY 2025-26, Rs 1,11,544.83 crore has been earmarked for the domestic industry. Significant expenditure to the extent of 45% has been recorded till date out of the funds earmarked for domestic procurement. This allocation is aimed to boost Aatmanirbharta in defence technology & manufacturing and to attract MSMEs and start-ups to the sector. Allocation under capital outlay for the services has shown a rising trend over the past several years. It has increased by around 60% during the last five years.

India, Canada decide to elevate ties through renewed ministerial-level talks



NEW DELHI

India and Canada on Monday agreed to restore and upgrade bilateral relations through renewed ministerial-level talks, a revived energy dialogue, and a fresh push on trade and technology cooperation.

The announcements followed a high-profile meeting in New Delhi between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand,

who is on an official visit to India.

The joint statement issued after the talks described the renewed partnership as critical amid "ongoing global economic uncertainty and rising geopolitical tensions," adding that closer cooperation between the two democracies would help build more resilient supply chains, promote strategic stability, and create economic opportunities.

This marks a significant shift in tone after a period of diplomatic

chill and follows months of careful re-engagement, beginning with the June meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. Since then, both countries have appointed new High Commissioners and reactivated dormant bilateral mechanisms.

Anand, who also met with Prime Minister Modi during her visit, emphasised that the two countries were "elevating the relationship"

while continuing their dialogue on security and law enforcement. Modi, in turn, welcomed Anand's visit as an opportunity to "infuse fresh momentum" into ties and deepen collaboration across trade, energy, technology, agriculture, and people-to-people engagement.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Canada Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand during a meeting, in New Delhi.

A key outcome of the meeting was the decision to re-establish the Canada-India Ministerial Energy Dialogue (CIMED). Both sides committed to deeper cooperation on clean and secure energy, including investments in oil and gas exploration, green hydrogen, biofuels, and carbon capture technologies. The dialogue also aims to strengthen power grid stability, share best practices on emission reduction and disaster resilience, and explore joint work on electric mobility and digital transformation in the energy sector.

Speaking after the meeting, Jaishankar said the recent developments marked "an important step in addressing our security concerns" and underscored the broad convergence between the two nations. "When we see Canada, we see a complementary economy, an open society, diversity, and pluralism, all of which form the basis of close cooperation," he said.

Anand echoed the optimism in a post on X, noting that the visit builds on the momentum created by Prime Minister Carney's outreach and signals a renewed commitment to a stronger bilateral framework.

The reset is being closely watched in both countries, particularly among the 1.7 million people of Indian origin living in Canada. Tensions in recent years had cast a shadow over trade negotiations and other aspects of the relationship, but the resumption of structured dialogue is seen as a sign of political will on both sides to move forward.

INTERNATIONAL

'We have peace in the Middle East': Trump signs Gaza declaration

SHARM EL SHEIKH

US President Donald Trump hailed a "tremendous day for the Middle East" as he and regional leaders signed a declaration Monday meant to cement a ceasefire in Gaza, hours after Israel and Hamas exchanged hostages and prisoners.

Trump made a lightning visit to Israel, where he lauded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in an address to parliament, before flying to Egypt for a Gaza summit where he and the leaders of Egypt, Qatar and Turkey signed the declaration as guarantors to the Gaza deal.

"This is a tremendous day for the world, it's a tremendous day for the Middle East," Trump said as more than two dozen world leaders sat down to talk in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

"The document is going to spell out rules and regulations and lots of other things," Trump said before signing, repeating twice that "it's going to hold up." "This took 3,000 years to get to this point," Trump said.

Trump described the gathering as "probably the greatest assemblage of countries in terms of wealth and power maybe ever assembled, and it's just an honour to be a part of it".

The summit, co-chaired by Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, included world leaders such as French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Jordan's King Abdullah, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, European Council President Antonio Costa and Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

India was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh after Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a last-minute invitation from US President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

After signing of the deal, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said they will award US President Donald Trump



"the order of the Nile, the highest state honour among the Egyptian decorations."

Earlier, President El-Sisi had praised Trump's role in brokering the deal, saying, "Your excellency is the only one capable of bringing this about and bringing an end to this war. You are the only one who is able to bring about peace and achieve peace in this part of the world. Thank you, Mr President!"

As part of Trump's plan to end the Gaza war, Hamas on Monday freed the last 20 surviving hostages it held after two years of captivity in Gaza.

In exchange, Israel released 1,968 mostly Palestinian prisoners held in its jails, its prison service said.

"From October 7 until this week, Israel has been a nation at war, enduring burdens that only a proud and faithful people could withstand," Trump told lawmakers during an address to Israel's parliament, where he received a lengthy standing ovation upon his arrival.

"For so many families across this land, it has been years since you've known a single day of true peace," he continued. "Not only for Israelis, but also for Palestinians and for many others, the long and painful nightmare is finally over." President Donald Trump poses with the signed agreement at a world leaders' summit on ending the Gaza war, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025.

"Welcome home," Israel's foreign ministry said in a series of posts on X, hailing the return of the hostages. On Tel

Aviv's Hostages Square, Noga shared her pain and joy.

"I'm torn between emotion and sadness for those who won't be coming back," she said.

Under the ceasefire agreement, Hamas is also due to return the bodies of 27 hostages who died or were killed in captivity, as well as the remains of a soldier killed in 2014 during a previous Gaza conflict.

Israel has said it does not expect all of the dead hostages to be returned on Monday, though the army said it had received the bodies of two captives that were handed over to the Red Cross by Hamas, and that it was still expecting the remains of two more.

Of the prisoners it freed in return, around 250 were security detainees, including many convicted of killing Israelis, while about 1,700 were taken into custody by the Israeli army in Gaza during the war.

On October 7, 2023, militants seized 251 hostages during Hamas's unprecedented attack on Israel, which led to the deaths of 1,219 people, most of them civilians. All but 47 of those hostages were freed in earlier truces, with the families of those who have remained in captivity leading lives of constant pain and worry for their loved ones.

In Gaza, too, the ceasefire has brought relief, but with much of the territory flattened by war, the road to recovery remains long.

"The greatest joy is seeing my whole family gathered to welcome me," Yusef

Afana, a 25-year-old released prisoner from north Gaza, told AFP in Khan Yunis.

"I spent 10 months in prison - some of the hardest days I've ever lived." In the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, meanwhile, Palestinian prisoners released by Israel were met by a cheering crowd so dense that they struggled to get off the bus that delivered them from jail.

"It's an indescribable feeling, a new birth," newly released Mahdi Ramadan told AFP, flanked by his parents.

Trump's visit to the Middle East aims to celebrate his role in brokering last week's ceasefire and hostage release deal - but much remains to be negotiated. Among the potential sticking points are Hamas's refusal to disarm and Israel's failure to pledge full withdrawal from the devastated territory.

The US leader, however, repeatedly signalled he was confident the ceasefire will hold, saying at a joint appearance with Sisi in Sharm el-Sheikh that talks on the next steps of the plan were underway. "It's started, as far as we're concerned, phase 2 has started," he said. "The phases are all a little bit mixed in with each other," he added.

Trump announced in late September a 20-point plan for Gaza, which helped bring about the ceasefire.

At his appearance with Sisi, he lauded the Egyptian leader as having been "very instrumental" in talks with Hamas. Sisi, for his part, said Trump was the "only one capable of bringing peace to our region".

Trump also briefly met with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas at the summit, which representatives of Israel and Hamas did not attend.

Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem on Monday urged Trump and the mediators of the Gaza deal to "continue monitoring Israel's conduct and to ensure it does not resume its aggression against our people".

Israel's campaign in Gaza has killed at least 67,869 people, according to figures from the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers credible.

Los Angeles County officials to vote on emergency declaration over immigration raids



LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles County officials will vote Tuesday on whether to declare a state of emergency that would give them power to provide assistance for residents they say have suffered financially from ongoing federal immigration raids.

The move would allow the LA County Board of Supervisors to provide relief for tenants who have fallen behind as a result of the crackdown on immigrants. A local state of emergency can also funnel state money for legal aid and other services.

Funds for rent would be available to people who apply via an online portal that would be launched within two months, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's office said. The motion could also be a first step toward an eviction moratorium, but that would require a separate action by the supervisors.

Landlords worried it could be another financial hit after an extended ban on evictions and rental increases during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since June, the Los Angeles region has been a battleground in the Trump administration's aggressive immigration strategy that spurred protests and the deployment of the National Guards and Marines for more than a month. Federal agents have rounded up immigrants without legal status to be in the U.S. from Home Depots, car washes, bus stops, and farms. Some U.S. citizens have also been detained.

Horvath and Janice Hahn said the raids have spread fear and destabilized households and businesses.

"They are targeting families, disrupting classrooms, silencing workers, and forcing people to choose between staying safe and choosing housed," Horvath said in a statement, referencing actions by the Trump administration. She added declaring an emergency "is how we fight back."

Last week the five-member board voted 4-1 to put the declaration up for a vote at its regular Tuesday meeting. The sole "no" vote came from Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who argued that

the immigration raids did not meet the criteria of an emergency and that it could be unfair to landlords.

"I'm sure we're going to be challenged legally," Barger said. The county's eviction moratorium during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in multiple lawsuits.

Landlords are "still reeling" from the COVID-era freezes that cost them "billions of dollars in uncollected rent and prohibited annual rent increase," said Daniel Yukelson, CEO of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles.

He said housing providers are sympathetic to tenants and their family members affected by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities. But, he said, the association isn't aware of anyone unable to pay rent due to immigration enforcement.

"If local jurisdictions once again allow rent payments to be deferred due to ICE enforcement activities, this will lead to the further deterioration and loss of affordable housing in our community," Yukelson said.

The Frankenstein Moment: How Dr. Yunus's regime turned on the army it rode to power



The mask has finally slipped. On 8 October 2025, the so-called International Crimes Tribunal—resurrected and repurposed as the most potent political weapon of Dr. Muhammad Yunus's illegitimate interim government—issued arrest warrants against 30 individuals, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 24 military officers, 14 of whom are still in active service. The order, signed by Justice Md. Golam Mortuza Majumder of Tribunal-1, instructs authorities to present all accused before the court by 22 October.

Never before in Bangladesh's history has a civilian court sought to arrest such a large number of serving military officers. The resulting tension within the armed forces is both palpable and unprecedented. What we are witnessing is not a pursuit of justice, but a calculated assault on the very institution that once ensured the state's stability.

From the day Dr. Yunus and his unelected cohort seized power, they have sought to use the judiciary—and this tribunal in particular—as a blunt instrument to destroy the Awami League and erase Sheikh Hasina's legacy. In pursuit of that vendetta, the tribunal was re-engineered, its laws amended unconstitutionally by executive fiat, and its leadership handed to none other than Barrister Tazul Islam, the former defence lawyer of convicted war criminals.

The latest "amendment," rammed through on 6 October, demonstrates the tribunal's grotesque political motive. It decrees that anyone merely accused under the tribunal's law must be suspended from any constitutional or public position and barred from contesting elections. In other words, accusation itself equals conviction—a perversion of justice so blatant that it mocks every principle of due process and human rights. In this Orwellian system, lawlessness has become law, and vengeance masquerades as justice.

The Army in the Crosshairs



Never jeopardize a good thing for a new thing.

The warrants against serving and retired officers are no coincidence. The accused

include former heads of DGFI and RAB intelligence—essentially targeting the very organs that guard the state's security architecture. The tribunal did not consult the armed forces, nor did it allow them to provide institutional input. By treating departmental allegations as grounds for immediate "expulsion," the regime has deliberately crippled the military's autonomy and challenged its professional integrity. The message from the Yunus regime is brutally simple: either serve as our pawns, or face prosecution.

By turning legal machinery against its own protectors, the regime has opened a Pandora's box—one that could see a steady stream of politicized cases designed to break the army's morale, reduce it to submission, and neutralize it as an independent force.

The Irony of Betrayal

This betrayal carries a bitter irony. The Yunus administration rose to power on the shoulders of the military, which deployed nationwide under the pretext of "restoring order." Yet after fourteen months of collaboration—willing or otherwise—the army finds itself the latest casualty of the very machine it enabled.

Why this sudden hostility? Because the regime's architects no longer need the army's protection. Having already dismantled constitutional institutions—from the Election Commission to the Supreme Court—they now move to domesticate the military. The army's cooperation lent legitimacy to a government that has suppressed civil rights, enabled mob violence, and empowered radical elements. The public's trust in the forces has eroded. Now, with their image tarnished, Dr. Yunus and his deep-state backers are tightening the leash.

The army can either remain a tool in their hands—or be dragged through the courts as scapegoats.

The General Who Lost His Army

Here lies the heart of the tragedy. On 5 August 2024, General Waker-Uz-Zaman stood before the nation and claimed that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had resigned. We now know he lied. He promised to "protect the people's safety." Fourteen months later, Bangladesh has descended into mob rule, chaos, and fear—under his watch, and sometimes under his command.

He vowed to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War; yet freedom monuments have been vandalized,

Mujib's legacy desecrated, and freedom fighters humiliated, all as he remained silent.

He declared there would be "no bloody corridor." Yet the corridor now turns to be the reality, paved with the footprints of foreign troops under the guise of "joint exercises."

He pledged elections within 18 months—another lie. He swore the military would not be used politically—yet his soldiers have been seen acting as the street muscle of a party that doesn't even exist on paper, firing upon unarmed citizens in Gopalganj.

But one promise he has kept: the one he made, perhaps unwittingly, to the enemies of 1971. With quiet devotion, he has overseen the rehabilitation of Jamaat-e-Islami, whose leaders he once called "Amir-e-Jamaat" with reverence. Under his watch, the ideological poison of Pakistani revivalism has seeped back into Bangladesh. Militant preachers like Jashimuddin Rahmani have emerged, emboldened, sometimes even speaking from army vehicles.

For fourteen months, the armed forces have oscillated between complicity and paralysis—sometimes silent, sometimes servile—while the Yunus regime dismantled the republic brick by brick. Perhaps they believed they could share power and protect themselves. But as the old saying goes, when the city burns, temples too are not spared.

Frankenstein Turns on Its Creator

Today, the creature they nur-

tured has turned on them. This is Bangladesh's Frankenstein moment. By undermining the military's morale, humiliating its officers, and dragging them into politically engineered trials, Dr. Yunus seeks to complete the conquest of the state—not through tanks, but through terror masked as law.

Even more telling is the image of the Army Chief himself reportedly pleading with the Chief Justice to protect his officers—only to be refused. That spectacle alone reveals how far the mighty have fallen.

A soldier is trained to die for his commander's word. He believes his superiors will, in turn, defend him. What happens when that faith collapses? When soldiers see their commander powerless—reduced to a pawn in a regime's cynical game—the institution itself begins to die from within.

And that, perhaps, is exactly what Dr. Yunus intends. The arrest warrants are not the end—they are merely the first shots in a war to break the army's soul.

History will not forgive the generals who stood by as the republic they once vowed to protect was handed over to its sworn enemies. Nor will it forgive the regime that mistook vengeance for justice and submission for peace.

When the army falls silent, tyranny speaks the loudest. And Bangladesh, once again, stands at the crossroads of its destiny.

SPACE FOR YOU ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

NAME CHANGE

I. M. GunadonSingha, S/o. Purnachand B Singha, R/o. House No. 33, New Link Road, ADC Colony, Rongpur Part-IV, Silchar Pin Code - 788009, Cachar, Assam have changed my name to GunadonSingha for all future purposes.

PLACEMENT SERVICES

Fresher, job seekers can register with KRC Placements. Send resume to - 5eforsuccess@gmail.com To source candidates, organisation can contact KRC Placements at info@krccfoundation.org For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krccplacements> Apply here: <https://bit.ly/KRCPlacementForm>

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business establishments, educational institutions, individual service providers etc. can enlist themselves or advertise their products or services at the most reasonable cost in InfoCom Diary. Send your details to InfoCom Solutions at: infocom.krc@gmail.com Submit Here: <https://bit.ly/InfoComDiaryForm>

STUDENTS' INTERNSHIP

Students can apply for a three-months internship with KRC Foundation. During the internship the student can get an opportunity to work on a live project. On successful completion the student is awarded a certificate. Apply to 5E for Success: 5eforsuccess@gmail.com For Details Visit: <https://bit.ly/krccstudentinternship> or www.krccfoundation.org/products-services/training-development-5e-for-success/internship

NE INDIA WRITING STAR CONTEST

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

CONNECT@ KRC TIMES



KRC TIMES

To engage with KRC TIMES, please use the following e-mails and WhatsApp Nos: For News: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 For Advertisement: info@krccfoundation.org / WP: 9330830083 For Subscription: krctimes@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313 Editor: biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com / WP: 8721838313

KRC FOUNDATION

North East Integration Rally 2026

Peace | Progress | Prosperity

Registrations OPEN

Whatsapp only +91 933 083 0083

www.northeastintegrationrally.in



BARAK FESTIVAL

JANUARY 10-12, 2025

ACTIVITY PROGRAM



10 JAN

NE Cultural Fest

Any Form of Art and Cultural showcase can be showcased here. The Top performances will be invited to perform in the Main Event. Schools, Colleges, University Department, Individual & Group Competition.



11 JAN

Adventure Sports

Tracking & Campus, Obstacle Navigations, Sport Climbing, Disaster Management, Techniques, Water Sports and more. www.krcfoundation.org



Barak Festival 2025 BARAK VALLEY CONCLAVE

10-12 January, 2025 | Theme: Silchar | **POTENTIAL, ISSUES & CHALLENGES**

REGISTER NOW

www.krcfoundation.org | info@krcfoundation.org | 071 8562 5





12 JAN

River-Climate Conclave

State of the River will be discussed on Climate Change, pollution and river flooding. The Conclave will focus on the importance, technical and protection of River Barak. Training & Geography competition and exhibition on River Barak, Climate Change.



JAN'25

Online Global Fest

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





BROADCAST PARTNER



REGISTER HERE

Contact: info@krcfoundation.org | 071 8562 5

Barak Festival

Adventure Sports, Art & Culture Promotion

11 JAN

5E For Success Conclave

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

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



10 JAN

Media Conclave

Media Conclave (Webinars, Seminars, Guest talks and Panels) and Conferences are part of the "Barak Festival 2025". Theme: "One for All, All for One". Webinars, panel discussions, seminars, conferences, corporate houses, sponsors, guests, speakers, members.





PAINTING CARNIVAL

NE CULTURAL FEST

E-SPORTS

FILM FESTIVAL | EXHIBITION

BOOK CLUB | SEMINAR | WORKSHOP | RAMP WALK | RECORDS LIVE

CONTACT: info@krcfoundation.org | 071 8562 5

10-12 JAN

Science Studio

Use a glimpse of Science to arts through digital. Class VI-XI | Teachers | Seniors, Administrators | Parents. Raw science 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".





Band Night 10 JAN

Musical Night 11 JAN

Contact: info@krcfoundation.org | 071 8562 5

Barak Festival

10-12 JAN

E-Sports

Full-Blown Competitive | CASH PRIZES | Trophy



11 JAN

film festival

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





STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Discover valuable experience and learn more about the Industry.

- Outreach Executive
- Event Management
- Programme Coordinator

APPLY NOW | 071 8562 5 | www.krcfoundation.org

10-12 JAN

Book Bank

Anti-Risk Campaign Book Bank (2000 copies) | Issue | Issue

Book Club

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

Painting Carnival

Water Colour painting and Draw-Race Campaign