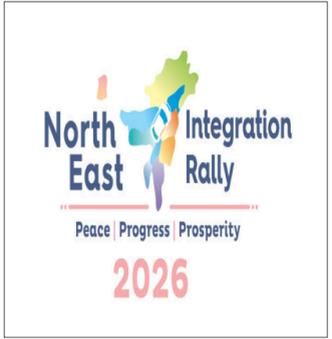




# KRC TIMES

## STAY-ENRICHED



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 587 | SILCHAR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 07, 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@krcfoundation.org

### PERSPECTIVE

Get rich so you can buy back your time, health, and peace. Everything else is noise.

### Manipur's Linthoi Chanambam wins historic bronze at Junior Judo World Championships

IMPHAL



Manipur's Linthoi Chanambam created history on October 7 by becoming the first Indian to win a medal at the Junior Judo World Championships, securing bronze in Lima, Peru.

Competing in the women's 63 kg category, Chanambam defeated the Netherlands' Joni Geilen in a tense bronze medal match. She reached the contest through the repechage bracket after an earlier loss to Japan's So Morichika in the group stage.

The match saw Chanambam face an early penalty for blocking, but she quickly turned the tide with a decisive tomoe-nage throw that put Geilen on the back foot.

The two judokas remained evenly matched until the final moments, when Chanambam executed a hold-down to claim ippon and secure India's historic podium finish.

Expressing his admiration on social media, former Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh said, "Heartiest congratulations to Linthoi Chanambam on winning the Bronze medal at the World Junior Judo Championships! Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication have made the entire state of Manipur and the nation immensely proud."

#### WHO SAID WHAT



**On Loktak Day, let us celebrate the pride of Manipur — our lifeline, Loktak Lake — a symbol of nature's beauty, balance, and bounty.**  
~ Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Governor of Manipur

#### GUWAHATI

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Guwahati High Court seeking a thorough investigation into the suspicious death of Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg.

The PIL, submitted by Abhijit Sharma and Palash Ranjan Baruah, highlights alleged irregularities, potential criminal conspiracy, and misuse of official positions linked to the case.

The revelations have intensified calls for a thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

Concerns have been raised over the involvement of DSP Sandipan Garg of the Assam Police in the North East Festival, a business and cultural event unrelated to police duties.

Questions have been posed regarding whether the officer had any official authorisation to participate in the festival and, if so, under what legal or administrative authority. Observers



have highlighted the risk of conflict of interest and potential misuse of official position, with demands for clarity on whether government sanction was obtained for his participation.

Further complicating the matter are allegations involving Shyam Kanu Mahanta, a politically and administratively influential figure in Assam, being the younger brother of former DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta and current Chief Information Commissioner of the state. Sources indicate that Mahanta's connections could potentially

influence or obstruct the ongoing investigation into Zubeen Garg's death. Concerns have been raised that undue pressure or interference could compromise the impartiality and independence of investigative authorities.

Shekhar Goswami, a close associate of Zubeen Garg, alleged that the singer's lips and fingers were observed to have turned blue when he was retrieved from water, raising suspicions of poisoning or exposure to a toxic substance prior to death. Reports also suggest that excessive alcohol con-

sumption may have either directly contributed to his death or created conditions that facilitated it. These circumstances underscore the need for a detailed probe into both the immediate cause of death and the possible involvement of third parties. Adding another dimension to the case, Siddhartha Sharma has been accused of unauthorised possession of Zubeen Garg's mobile phone and social media accounts, from which he allegedly uploaded videos and messages in the deceased's name without consent. Such actions reportedly misled the public and influenced Garg's family, particularly prompting his wife Garima Saikia to appeal for the withdrawal of FIRs against him. The allegations suggest a potential premeditated and coordinated conspiracy surrounding Zubeen Garg's death, including suppression or destruction of evidence, obstruction of justice, and deliberate attempts to mislead authorities and manipulate

public perception. Coordinated actions by Siddhartha Sharma, Shyam Kanu Mahanta, and other individuals involved are cited as evidence of a systematic effort to conceal the true circumstances of the singer's demise.

Alleged Offences Include: Suspicious death/murder (Section 105 BNS), criminal conspiracy (Section 61 BNS), misappropriation or embezzlement (Sections 314/316 BNS), obstruction of investigation (Section 221 BNS), forgery and unauthorised use of social media accounts (Sections 336/356 BNS), and violations of the IT Act (Sections 66C and 66D).

Prayers for Investigation: Authorities have been urged to: Conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances of Zubeen Garg's death.

Probe Siddhartha Sharma's alleged illegal possession of the deceased's property and unauthorised posting of digital content.

Examine the roles of

Shyam Kanu Mahanta and others for potential negligence, coercion, or criminal conspiracy.

Investigate the participation of DSP Sandipan Garg in the North East Festival and potential misuse of public funds.

Involve the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for probing financial misconduct.

Collect and preserve all evidence, including electronic data, videos, social media content, and financial transactions.

The petitioners have requested that the police register an FIR and initiate a comprehensive investigation to ensure transparency and bring all guilty parties to justice.

This case has drawn widespread attention due to the high-profile nature of those involved and the serious allegations of conspiracy, highlighting the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and strict adherence to legal procedures in ongoing inquiries.

### Himanta says case to be filed against Gaurav Gogoi, hints his close ties with Shyamkanu Mahanta



GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on October 7 hinted at a deep association between event manager Shyamkanu Mahanta and Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, describing them as "bundiya-bhuiya"—a colloquial expression meaning inseparable friends.

Sarma urged the public to look back at Mahanta's Facebook posts during the Jorhat elections, which, he said, clearly reveal a close political friendship between the two.

The Chief Minister's remarks come amid an ongoing CID probe into Mahanta's alleged financial irregularities and his suspected link to the mysterious death of singer-actor Zubeen Garg in Singapore.

The Chief Minister further an-

nounced that a case will be registered against Gaurav Gogoi for making "provocative and insensitive remarks." Sarma said, "Gaurav Gogoi made inflammatory comments while claiming to support Assamese identity. He even remarked that when an artist like Zubeen Garg dies, people outside the state burn down shops and establishments — such statements are unacceptable and hurt public sentiment."

"There will be a case... an omnibus case will be registered against all who has used political mileage to the Zubeen's death case and in this case I am sure Gaurav Gogoi will be questioned. The way we registered a case in CAA protest we will register a case against all who created panic at the Airport, Sarusajai Stadium... no one will be spared."

Further slamming Gaurav Gogoi, CM Sarma said, "What will Gaurav give justice to Zubeen? .. Zubeen was an Indian National, but Gaurav Gogoi's two children are foreign nationals... till date, he has not applied for Indian Nationality."

Sarma's sharp remarks have stirred fresh political tension in Assam, with the opposition yet to issue a response.

### Manipur celebrates festival of oneness, Mera Hou Chongba

IMPHAL

Manipur is observing the Mera Hou Chongba festival today, a celebration that symbolizes the unity between hill and valley communities in the state. The event is being held at Kangla, with participation from several indigenous communities across Manipur.

Known for its rich ethnic diversity, Manipur uses this festival to reinforce the message of "unity in diversity." Indigenous communities from the hill districts arrive in Imphal a day in advance to attend the celebrations.

Held on the 15th lunar day of the Mera month in the Meitei calendar, Mera Hou Chongba combines traditional rituals with the state's vibrant cultural heritage. This year, the festival began at 8 am with a colorful procession from Sana Konung, the royal palace, to Kangla, led by King Leishemba Sanajaoba, who also serves as a Rajya Sabha MP. The procession was joined by all indigenous communities, reinforcing centuries-old bonds of fraternity and oneness.

Traditional and religious rituals such as Mera Thamei Thanba and Mera Yenkhong Tamba were performed at Kangla, followed by the exchange of gifts between hill and valley communities in the afternoon. Cultural programs will continue into the evening. A total of 135 chiefs from different indigenous communities and 15 cultur-



al teams are participating in this year's festival.

King Leishemba Sanajaoba highlighted the unique nature of Mera Hou Chongba, noting that it is the only festival in Manipur where all indigenous communities come together to participate. "Every community has its own festival, but Mera Hou Chongba is the common traditional festival of the indigenous people, celebrated since 33 AD during the reign of Nongdalairem Pakhangba," he said. He added that the festival fosters love, unity, and harmony among all communities.

Participants expressed joy at being part of the celebration. Rachubui Pame from Tamenglong district said, "We are fortunate to be in Imphal and take part in Mera Hou Chongba, coming all the way from Tamenglong. Through this festival, the sense of oneness and brotherhood among communities grows stronger."

Since 2017, the state government has played a key role in organizing Mera Hou Chongba as an official state function, highlighting its significance in promoting peace and communal harmony.

### Assam rolls out Orunodoi 3.0, Rs 410 crore monthly to benefit 38 lakh women

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, on Tuesday, launched Orunodoi 3.0, a major expansion of the state's flagship direct benefit transfer (DBT) programme aimed at strengthening social equity and women's empowerment.

The scheme, in its third installment, now covers 38 lakh women beneficiaries across the state, ensuring regular, direct financial assistance through bank transfers. "We started Orunodoi in August 2020 with Rs 830 per month for 18 lakh families. Many people had fallen into poverty during COVID-19. When beneficiaries received their first payment, they felt that the government stood with them. Later, we increased the amount to Rs 1,000 in 2021 and further expanded the coverage to 10.54 lakh more families in November 2022," said the Chief Minister at the launch ceremony, at Veterinary Field, Khanapara.

Under Orunodoi 3.0, each beneficiary will now receive Rs 1,250 every month. The Chief Minister announced that over Rs 410 crore would be distributed monthly through direct bank transfers. The rollout, taking place si-



multaneously across 25,000 locations in Assam, is expected to further strengthen the financial independence of women in rural and urban households alike.

"Today, 38 lakh women are receiving the Orunodoi benefits. In the coming

weeks, 6 lakh more from the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) will also be included, taking the total to 40 lakh. Though the BTR rollout may take about a month, we decided not to delay benefits for other districts," Sarma said.

He added that the expansion of Orunodoi has been guided by citizens' feedback and the state's commitment to social inclusion. "As the number of beneficiaries increases, the benefits should also grow. Hence, we are introducing a new scheme from November 1. Apart from rice, every ration card holder will get pulses, salt, and sugar at subsidised rates.

We will also provide Rs 250 per gas cylinder under the new cooking gas assistance programme," the Chief Minister stated. To ensure smoother implementation, Sarma announced the appointment of Orunodoi Assistants at every development block who will assist beneficiaries and resolve issues locally. "If any beneficiary faces issues, they can contact the block-level assistant or use the dedicated helpline number that will soon be announced. If an Orunodoi beneficiary passes away, the benefit can be transferred to the

next eligible family member," he said. The Chief Minister also confirmed that beneficiaries would receive the October installment within hours of the launch, while from next month, disbursements will be made on the 10th of every month. However, the political undertone of the event was hard to miss, as Sarma positioned Orunodoi as both a social and electoral tool. "It seems the Congress leaders weren't born of mothers themselves, given their criticism of the Orunodoi scheme dedicated to mothers. Let me make this clear, those who oppose Orunodoi will never earn votes in the upcoming elections," Sarma said, in a pointed remark at the Opposition's criticism of the scheme. Calling Orunodoi a "model for other states to follow", Sarma concluded, "This is not just about financial assistance, it's about empowering women and restoring dignity to households through direct government support." In Margherita sub-district administration, the Orunodoi launch programme was live broadcasted for the public. In the presence of Margherita Block Development Officer, 29,000 beneficiaries received the financial assistance under the scheme.

KRC FOUNDATION

North East Integration Rally 2026  
Peace | Progress | Prosperity

**Medical Partner, NEIR 2026**

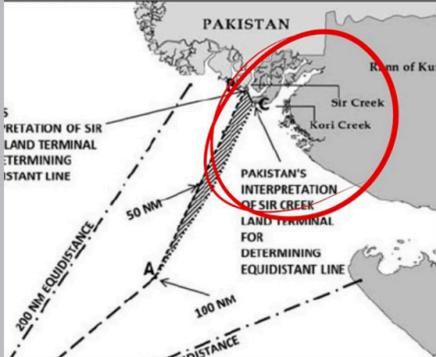
**ARHI HOSPITAL**  
A Unit of Far East Wellness Pvt Ltd

www.northeastintegrationrally.in



VOLUME:1, ISSUE 587

## PAKISTAN'S SIR CREEK PROVOCATION



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's stern warning from Bhuj that any Pakistani misadventure in the Sir Creek sector will invite a response strong enough to "change both history and geography" must be understood in the larger context of Pakistan's unrelenting provocations against India. For seventy-eight years since Independence, Pakistan has consistently chosen confrontation over cooperation, misadventure over reconciliation, and self-defeat over pragmatism. Despite being battered on multiple occasions by India's armed forces on the battlefield, in limited wars, and in counter-terror operations, Islamabad seems incapable of learning the lessons of its repeated defeats. The trajectory of Pakistan's hostility is well known. The wars of 1965 and 1971 are testimony to its folly, with the latter leading to the creation of Bangladesh and the dismemberment of Pakistan itself. Even the Kargil War, where its forces suffered heavy losses and international humiliation, did not deter Islamabad from sponsoring terrorism as a state policy. From the Indian Parliament attack to the Uri assault, from Pulwama to Pahalgam, Pakistan has sought to bleed India through a thousand cuts. Yet, every attempt has been met with firm and often overwhelming responses from New Delhi.

The 2001 Parliament attack forced India to mobilise its entire army on the borders. The Uri terror attack in 2016 was answered with precise surgical strikes. Pulwama in 2019 brought the Balakot air strike, sending a clear signal that India's tolerance for terrorism had ended. The most recent provocation, the Pahalgam attack, triggered Operation Sindoor in May 2025—a meticulously executed military campaign that inflicted crippling damage on Pakistan's terror infrastructure and exposed the hollowness of its much-hyped air defence system. Operation Sindoor proved to be a turning point. Pakistan's airfields, fighter planes, and communications were devastated. Its drones and missiles, supplied by friendly nations like China and Turkey, were rendered largely ineffective by India's impregnable defences. The result was Pakistan's worst humiliation in recent years: scrambling to repair destroyed airfields with international grants and pleading for cessation of Indian counterstrikes. The message was unambiguous—India has both the will and the capability to retaliate with devastating precision whenever its sovereignty is challenged.

Yet, despite this bruising experience, Pakistan persists in its futile provocations. Its latest attempt to expand military infrastructure in the Sir Creek sector, a disputed tidal estuary between Gujarat's Rann of Kutch and Pakistan, is another reckless gamble destined for failure. Singh's warning rightly captures the futility of such moves: if Pakistan dares to act in Sir Creek, it risks a response that could alter its very existence. The reference to the Indian Army reaching Lahore in 1965 and the road to Karachi passing through Sir Creek in 2025 is not empty rhetoric; it is a reminder of India's proven ability to strike decisively when provoked.

India has never been the aggressor, as New Delhi's policy is not to escalate or initiate conflict. But Pakistan's refusal to learn, its repeated misadventures, and its obsession with India have forced the Indian state to respond each time with increasing strength. Each defeat has further exposed Pakistan's weaknesses—militarily, diplomatically, and economically—yet its establishment refuses to abandon the self-destructive path of confrontation. What makes Pakistan's posture even more tragic is its collapsing economic condition. Instead of focusing on uplifting its people, stabilising its economy, or strengthening democracy, it continues to divert scarce resources toward building military infrastructure and fuelling terrorism. The Indian armed forces have demonstrated jointness, preparedness, and overwhelming superiority time and again. Another provocation may well reshape Pakistan's future in ways its leadership cannot even imagine.

Pakistan must finally recognise a reality it has long resisted: confrontation with India is futile. Every past attempt has left it scarred, weakened, and humiliated. To continue on the same path is to invite disaster yet again. Rajnath Singh's words are not just a warning; they are a reminder of history and a prediction of what lies ahead if Pakistan persists with its failed policies. The choice is Islamabad's: pursue peace and stability, or court another defeat that could truly alter its geography and history forever. d Chhatisgarh.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

They say philosophers and wise men are indifferent. Wrong. Indifference is a paralysis of the soul, a premature death.

- Anton Chekhov

# CIRCULAR ECONOMY- ENABLING VIKSIT BHARAT 2047

PROF K S CHANDRASEKAR

Indian economy has increased tenfold in the last three decades and is projected to be the third largest, with an estimated GDP of \$7.3 trillion by 2030. Jostling for the same, the economic growth has also led to an unprecedented increase in its annual material consumption, which grew from 1.18 billion tonnes in 1970 to 7 billion tonnes in 2015 and is projected to reach 14.2 billion tonnes by 2030. UN has given SDG long back for nation's to follow so that they achieve the objectives by 2030. Suddenly, we have opened up to the UN SDG. Even though the deadline given is 2030, I think we can achieve the objectives only by 2045. Nations are taking actions. But are a bit late. We cannot blame them due to their own interests and commitments. As India strives to become a Viksit Bharat, a developed economy, by 2047, it must restructure its growth model to a more resource-efficient one by embedding circular strategies. This shift is not an environmental but an economic imperative that boosts jobs, growth, and sustainability. The linear economy which India followed since has not only caused industrial expansion but also led to enormous amounts of wasted goods. In the last 15 years, the global fashion industry doubled production, but by the time clothing is worn before being rejected halved, 73% of thrown away clothing is burned or buried. The shift from a linear economic model, characterized by extraction, production, and disposal, to a circular approach focused on renewal, refurbishment, and resource-sharing holds promise for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, notably Sustainable Development Goal 12, which focuses on sustainable use and creation of goods. Similarly, 5,000 million tonnes of plastic lie in landfills. World Bank studies find eight million tonnes of plastic leak into the oceans annually—by 2050, the seas could contain more plastic than fish. E-waste or discarded electronics measures 50 million tonnes. Comprising harmful minerals, including carcinogenic mercury and lead, e-waste is hazardous—yet, the UN finds only one-fifth of all e-waste is recycled, leaving mountains of discarded mobiles, batteries and remotes.

Sustainability is a dynamic process which enables all people to realize their potential and to improve their quality of life in ways that simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth's life support systems. Indigenous communities, who have lived sustainably on Earth for centuries, typically define sustainability around principles of relationality, community-based governance, quality of life and health, and communal recognition of nature and external, non-human entities as life-givers and enablers. Sustainability clearly exists to find balance between economic, societal, and environmental needs, both now and in the future. If also a form of systems thinking which recognizes everything is connected, actions cannot be compartmentalized, and no individual, organization, or nation operates by itself.

Circular economy is a sustainable model, process, or economic system focused on re-use and waste elimination. It's a method of achieving sustainability, or a representation of a sustainable ecosystem. In this sense, a circular product or supply chain is likely to be more sustainable than a linear, non-circular one—but circularity alone isn't the only way to define something as sustainable. The shift towards a circular economy holds the potential to yield considerable overall health advantages, thereby aiding in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), notably SDGs 3, 9, 11, and 12. Several essential services vital to confined societies, such as energy provision, water supply, wastewater treatment, and waste collection, rely heavily on natural resources and environmental services. It aims to reduce the use of natural resources, recycling and repurposing commodities, saving Earth from more landfills and polluted ecosystems. It makes industries more productive. The World Economic Forum



finds a global circular economy can bring material cost savings of one trillion dollars annually by 2025, recycled e-waste alone yielding over \$825 billion. Its environmental gains are huge—applying circular strategies to cement, aluminium, steel, plastics and food could eliminate 45% of the emissions now heating the Earth. More than 30 percent of land area has been degraded through deforestation, over-cultivation, soil erosion and depletion of wetlands. That is why we are seeing the flash floods, cloud bursts, climate change across the country.

Circular economy prioritizes regenerative resources as material inputs and making the most out of existing resources and materials. It is based on three principles: design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, regenerate natural systems. Main pillars of action are known as the 3R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The aim of the circular economy is therefore to make the most of the material resources available to us by applying three basic principles: reduce, reuse and recycle. According to a 2019 European Union (EU) study, only around 9% of the global economy is circular. That means we primarily live and work in a linear economy characterized by unsustainable production and consumption. We take raw materials from the Earth, process them into products we consume (usually generating additional waste along the way), and then throw them away after use.

The World Institute of Sustainable Energy has developed an action plan to capture at least 60 percent of the electronic waste generated in the city of Pune, one of the largest metropolitan areas in India. Their approach is based on circular economy principles and has been embraced in stakeholder meetings with city officials as well as local residents and non-governmental organizations. Government from time to time has come out with rules and regulations to ensure circularity including The E-Waste (Management) Rules 2016, Battery Waste management Rules 2022 and Plastic waste management rules, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0, GOBAR Dhan scheme, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme and Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana. Companies including private have put in their efforts on the same as Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)'s initiative "Project Prithvi" which aims to create a circular economy for plastic waste. The project has resulted in the collection and disposal of over 5,000 metric tons of plastic waste. Indian Railways has implemented a circular economy model by repurposing discarded railway tracks. Godrej Group has implemented a circular economy model by repurposing discarded wooden pallets. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has implemented a circular economy model by repurposing plastic waste. There are

644 Circular Economy startups in India which include Lohum, Attero, GPS Renewables, Recykal, WeVOIS Labs. Out of these, 185 startups are funded, with 33 having secured Series A+ funding. 2025 has seen the creation of 2 Circular Economy startups in India. Over the past 10 years, an average of 42 new companies has been launched annually. Notably, several of these startups have been founded by alumni of BITS Pilani, Indian School of Business and IIT Kanpur. Built environment also accounts for 40% of global carbon emissions, over 30% of global final energy use and consumes nearly half of the world's natural resources. The unprecedented concrete jungles being built can cause more harm and this is where planned cities, townships which can provide more open spaces, vegetation can be of help. In many advanced economies, there is now increasing regulation on businesses taking extended responsibility for their products, even after these go into the supply chain.

There's legislation, government intervention and consumer pressure on businesses to think about recovering and recycling products. It is time India is moving towards an advanced nation needs to immediately address considering the population it has.

India's Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar recently proposed the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C3) platform at the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum to promote resource efficiency and low carbon economy by connecting cities, academia, and tech innovators. Only about 2% of the Indian population currently own a car, but the demand for mobility is increasing. Demand for personal mobility in India is expected to double or even triple by 2030. Car sales are booming, and the country is expected to become the third largest market in the world by 2030, after China and the US. And by 2050, India will top the chart. Hence there is a need for hybrid and electric vehicles with scrappage policy announced by the Government to ensure better mobility. SEWA works in the textile waste sector, these are women workers who exchange old clothes for utility items, wash and repair these and sell them. Such old pieces of cloth are not thrown away, unlike in developed economies, which has a very positive environmental impact in terms of saving landscapes and water bodies from pollution and refuse. Traditional Indian society celebrated balancing one's desires with respecting nature as the source of everything. India can offer this worldview to the world while it modernises its own circular practices. That's why Swadeshi can provide an answer to these issues.

The principles of a circular economy are deeply embedded in the ancient Indian philosophy found in the Vedas, such as Ahimsa (non-violence), which extends to nature, and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the concept of the

earth as a single family. These ideas promote a reverence for nature, interconnectedness, and a shift from resource extraction to sustainable practices, mirroring the modern circular economy's goals of waste reduction, resource regeneration, and non-exploitative consumption.

Our approach to circularity must shift from sustainability to a strategic priority that accelerates our economic growth, strengthens our energy independence and makes India self-reliant in order to be the Viksit Bharat by 2047.

### DIGITAL WAR OF WORDS

The manner in which our Party colleagues, including a sitting MP and MLA, were attacked in West Bengal for serving the people affected by floods and landslides is outright appalling. It highlights the insensitivity of the TMC as well as the absolutely pathetic law and order situation in the state. I wish the West Bengal Government and TMC were more focussed on helping people rather than indulging in violence in such a challenging situation. I call upon BJP Karyakartas to continue working among the people and assist the ongoing rescue operations. ~ Narendra Modi, PM



## SO THAT COUGH SYRUP DOES NOT TURN INTO POISON AGAIN

LALIT GARG

The recent deaths of children in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh linked to contaminated cough syrup raise grave questions about India's drug regulatory system. These are not mere medical errors or tragic accidents—they are symptoms of a deeper systemic failure within the very framework meant to protect human life. When greed, negligence, and corruption infiltrate something as life-giving as medicine, even nectar turns into poison. The death of innocent children from substandard or adulterated drugs is not only the loss of families—it is the death of society's moral conscience and public trust. Toxic substances such as diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol found in the cough syrup have caused hundreds of child deaths across several countries before. Yet the recurrence of such incidents shows that India's drug regulatory structure suffers from chronic and structural flaws. The pressing question remains—have we learned anything from the past?

India has faced similar scrutiny before. In 2022, after the deaths of children in Gambia, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued warnings regarding an Indian-made cough syrup. Complaints followed from other nations as well. Despite being the world's third-largest producer of medicines, and exporting to nearly 200 countries, India's pharmaceutical credibility has been tarnished by these tragic and shameful incidents. This shows an alarming lack of vigilance and quality control in a field that directly deals with human lives. Medicines meant to heal are instead turning into agents of death.

Though the government has launched investigations, recalled affected batches, and filed cases, the problem lies much deeper. From sourcing raw materials to final quality testing, negligence pervades every stage of the drug manufacturing process. Some companies use industrial-grade solvents and chemicals to cut costs—substances entirely unfit for human consumption. Meanwhile, regulatory inspections are often superficial, and oversight bodies frequently succumb to corporate influence. Both central and state-level drug control departments lack sufficient manpower, resources, and technical expertise to carry out timely inspections and testing. When audits become mere formalities and reports turn into commodities for sale, disasters like this become inevitable. In the case of Shrii San Pharmaceuticals of Tamil Nadu, laboratory tests of its Coldrif cough syrup revealed 48.6% diethylene glycol, when the international permissible limit is less than 0.10%. This is a highly toxic industrial chemical used in automotive and machine fluids. It caused kidney failure in the affected children.

These incidents have not only shattered public faith in the health administration but have also stained India's global image. Several African nations had already imposed bans on Indian pharmaceutical products after similar deaths in past years. The fact that such tragedies are now recurring within India shows that the lessons of those episodes were never learned. As the world's largest supplier of generic drugs, India must realize that true strength lies not in production volume but in uncompromis-

ing quality. The most painful aspect of this tragedy is that the victims were infants—their immune systems still fragile, their survival dependent on the conscience of society and the state. The moral responsibility for these deaths does not rest solely on the manufacturing companies but on the entire system that has turned a blind eye to regulation and ethics. Adulterating medicines or issuing fake quality certificates is not a mere economic offense—it is a crime against humanity. Such acts demand the severest punishment so that future offenders think a hundred times before repeating them.

India's pharmaceutical market is worth around \$60 billion, with a large share controlled by small and medium-sized enterprises. A CDSCO report from April this year revealed that a majority of these smaller firms failed to meet required quality standards—68% of MSMEs were found non-compliant. In 2023, 65% had failed similar inspections. If these findings were known, why did the government allow their products to remain in circulation? Urgent reforms are needed: every batch must have traceable raw materials, testing reports should be made public, and quality standards must meet international benchmarks. Both central and state authorities must expand their inspection staff and laboratory capacities. License renewals should depend on past compliance and testing records, and companies violating safety norms should lose their licenses immediately. The top management of such firms must be held personally and criminally accountable.

Yet beyond government action, this crisis calls for collective introspection. Doctors must recognize the dangers of over-the-counter (OTC) medications for children. Public advisories and safety guidelines must reach grassroots levels. The media, too, must rise above sensationalism to lead an informed campaign for public health awareness.

These tragedies should not fade as mere headlines—they must ignite a movement for medical integrity. India's pharmaceutical exports are projected to exceed \$30 billion this year and could touch \$130 billion by 2030. But as the industry grows, so do the challenges. Testing and monitoring remain the weakest links. Regulatory agencies must operate with far greater transparency, integrity, and coordination, because this is not merely an issue of economics or global reputation—it is a matter of saving lives.

Ultimately, these events remind us that when morality is absent from the means of life protection, the entire edifice of progress collapses. The pharmaceutical sector must prioritize transparency, accountability, and human sensitivity above all else. The government and society together must ensure that no child ever dies again because of a tainted or counterfeit drug.

The time has come to move from medicine to moral responsibility, from regulation to righteousness, and to deliver the harshest possible punishment to those who betray humanity for profit. Only then can life-saving medicine once again become a symbol of trust, not terror.

# Nagaland University scientists develop flexible supercapacitor for wearables, EVs, and clean energy systems

KOHIMA

In a major scientific breakthrough from the North East, researchers at Nagaland University have developed a flexible supercapacitor device capable of powering next-generation wearable electronics, electric vehicles (EVs), and renewable energy systems — a development that could redefine India's energy storage landscape.

According to university officials, this marks the first-of-its-kind study to compare tungsten, vanadium, and cobalt doping in molybdenum diselenide (MoSe<sub>2</sub>) for energy storage applications. The team not only developed the material at the lab scale but also built a working prototype of the flexible supercapacitor, proving its practical viability.

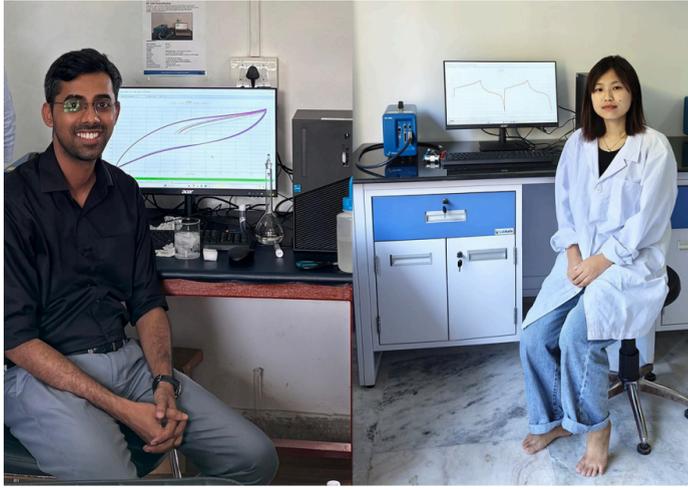
Immediate applications

of the innovation include health-monitoring wearables, IoT devices, and robotics, while future implications extend to electric vehicles. The flexible supercapacitor design could enhance regenerative braking systems, enable faster acceleration boosts, and extend battery lifespan, the researchers said.

Dr. Vijeth H, Assistant Professor at Nagaland University, said the research supports India's push toward 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' by advancing indigenous clean energy and storage technologies.

"This device combines flexibility, high energy density, and durability — all crucial for future portable and wearable technologies. Among tungsten, vanadium, and cobalt, we found cobalt doping to be the most effective," he explained.

The material was synthe-



sized using a simple, eco-friendly hydrothermal process, which makes it scalable for industrial use. The findings have been published in RSC Advances, a peer-reviewed journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC).

"This research not only showcases scientific excellence emerging from the North East but also strengthens India's path toward sustainable and self-reliant energy solutions," Dr. Vijeth said. Pewe-u Marhu, Research Scholar at the Department of Physics, said the next phase will focus on optimising the electrode-electrolyte interface, enhancing safety with solid-state

gel electrolytes, and scaling up production to pilot levels.

"Industry collaborations are being explored to bring this innovation closer to commercialisation. The research was conducted entirely at Nagaland University, with advanced characterisation support from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru under its INUP Program. Funding was provided by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), which is also leading a national initiative on 2D materials," Marhu added.

The innovation places Nagaland University among the few institutions in India contributing cutting-edge research in energy storage and flexible electronics, opening new possibilities for sustainable, high-performance power systems.

## SIT traces Rs 1 crore money trail through PSOs' accounts in Zubeen's death probe

GUWAHATI

Investigators probing the death of singer-actor Zubeen Garg have discovered financial transactions totalling Rs 1 crore that passed through bank accounts belonging to his bodyguard Nandeshwar Borah and an associate named Baishya over the past four to five years.

According to reports, Zubeen Garg entrusted the money to his PSOs to assist people in need, with the funds being distributed through GPay whenever someone sought his help.

The Special Investigation Team handling the case is now scrutinising these substantial money trails to determine their connection to Garg's mysterious death. Officials have described the financial angle as a critical breakthrough in the ongoing probe.

Data recovered from Zubeen Garg's mobile phone has provided investigators with additional leads. The SIT is currently analysing this information to map the complete flow of funds and identify other potentially relevant details that could explain the circumstances surrounding his death.

Authorities have focused particular attention on the month before Garg was scheduled to travel to Singapore, meticulously reviewing all financial records and communications from that period.

The examination aims to establish whether any monetary transactions or exchanges hold significance to the case.

## Meghalaya SSA Teachers' Association to challenge Supreme Court's TET ruling with review plea

SHILLONG

The Meghalaya Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Schools Association (MSSASA) has decided to move the Supreme Court with a review petition against its September 1 verdict, which mandates all in-service teachers to qualify the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) in order to retain their jobs.

The decision was taken unanimously during the association's general meeting held on Monday, October 6. MSSASA president Aristotle Rymbai stated that the association will legally challenge the retrospective application of the order, emphasizing that it has deeply unsettled many long-serving teachers nearing retirement.

"Our legal advisors have suggested that the retrospective effect of the ruling can be contested, as it unfairly impacts teachers who have served for decades under government norms existing before TET was introduced," Rymbai said. He further expressed concern that the ruling, if left unchallenged, could jeopardize the careers and livelihoods of a large number of teachers across the state. "This decision will have serious consequences on the future of many teachers. We have agreed to move collectively," he added.

The MSSASA plans to formally file the review petition in the coming days, seeking relief for teachers who were appointed prior to the enforcement of TET requirements.

GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has issued a set of crucial directives to the Assam government regarding eviction operations on government land, forest areas, and water bodies across the state. Emphasizing equality and legal compliance, the court ordered that eviction drives must be conducted without any discrimination based on caste, religion, or language. According to the High Court's order, authorities must serve prior notice at least 15 days before initiating any eviction, ensuring that affected families are duly informed in advance. The court further mandated that all such operations must strictly adhere to established judicial



procedures and government regulations.

Reiterating the state's legal authority, the High Court stated that the government has the right to remove illegal encroachments from public land, forest areas, and water bodies — but added that the process must remain transparent, fair, and within the bounds of law. In recent months,

## Gauhati High Court issues strict guidelines to Assam government for fair eviction of encroachments

eviction drives in several districts, including Golaghat, Bongaigaon, and Urimanghat, have stirred public debate and controversy. While these operations were aimed at clearing government land from illegal occupation, many local reports alleged that indigenous Assamese families were also affected, leading to widespread criticism. Earlier,

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had assured that indigenous people would not be evicted from their land. However, the ongoing eviction campaigns triggered protests after reports surfaced of native families being displaced. In response, the Sadou Asom Gorias Jatiya Parishad (SAGJP) approached the Gauhati High Court, appealing for protection of indigenous Assamese Muslims who have lived in Assam for generations. Following this, the Chief Minister reaffirmed that native residents would remain exempt from eviction drives, asserting that the government's actions are directed solely against illegal settlers while safeguarding the rights of genuine Assamese citizens.

## Protests erupt in Dima Hasao as women's groups seek justice for rape survivor

HAFLONG

A massive dharna was organised on October 6 opposite the office of the district commissioner of Dima Hasao to demand justice for a recent victim of rape. The agitation brought together several women's organisations and social activists, who voiced strong condemnation of the brutal incident and urged upon the authorities to ensure swift and stringent action against the accused persons.

The protest was jointly organised by the Shakti Mahila Mandal, the Dimasa Mothers' Association, and other women's groups from across the district. Carrying placards and banners calling for justice and women's safety, the demonstrators raised slogans demanding a



speedy investigation and trial.

Leaders of the participating organisations expressed deep concern over the growing number of crimes against women and appealed to the district adminis-

tration and police to handle the case with urgency and transparency. Several speakers emphasised that society must no longer tolerate gender-based violence and that effective measures should be

taken to protect women and girls in Dima Hasao. The women's groups later submitted a memorandum to Cabinet Minister Nandita Gorlosa through the district commissioner, calling for stronger implementation of laws related to sexual offences, better support for victims, and public awareness initiatives against such crimes.

Talking to the media, women's activist Parboti Thousen appealed to the administration to deliver justice to the victim by awarding exemplary punishment to the culprits without delay, as failure to do so will make the public lose confidence in the administration. Other protesters also unequivocally demanded justice for the victim as well as stringent action against the perpetrators of the crime.

## Assam-Asean One Skill and Language Institute becomes operational, to train youth in Japanese language



GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on October 6 announced that the Assam-Asean One Skill and Language Institute, established to provide Japanese language training to the state's youth, has become functional.

The Chief Minister made the announcement after meeting Toshiaki Nishikawa, Chairman of Asean One, at his office in Guwahati. He lauded the Japanese organisation for its collaboration and swift execution of the project.

"Conceptualisation to execution in 5 months. Fructifying our efforts to equip Assam's youth with Japanese language skills, the Assam-Asean One Skill and Language Institute is now functional," Sarma wrote in a post on X.

The initiative, he said, will further strengthen cultural and educational ties between Assam and Japan, providing students with access to global opportunities and exposure to Japanese work ethics and culture. The newly inaugurated institute will offer a dedicated Japanese Language Teaching Course, aimed at preparing skilled professionals for overseas employment, particularly in Japan's growing demand for trained workers.

Chief Minister Sarma had earlier met Nishikawa on May 6, during which the two had agreed to establish the language centre in Assam. The institute will serve as a bridge for Assamese youth to pursue short-term employment and cultural exchange opportunities in Japan, advancing Assam's vision of building a globally skilled workforce.

## Village action plans rolled out in Manipur under Tribal Vision 2030, Adi Karmayogi scheme

IMPHAL

As part of the implementation of the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, Tribal Village Vision 2030, and the preparation of Village Action Plans (VAPs), officials adopted two villages in Churachandpur district of Manipur for the first time.

The events took place on Monday and were officially reported on Tuesday.

Officials conducted the adoption programs, aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, at the Chief's compound in Muallum Village and the Community Hall in Sumchinum Village, both in the Singnat Tribal Development (TD) Block.

The initiative marked a significant step toward empowering tribal communities through inclusive governance and participatory development.

Quest!

he first documented restaurant was opened in 1765 in Paris, France by a soup vendor named A. Boulanger.



Villagers, primarily from the Kuki-Zohmar community, along with Adi Sathis and Adi Karmayogis, took part in a transect walk as part of the Adi Seva Parv observance in the Singnat Block.

During the walk, community members gathered data relevant to their villages and took part in participatory exercises to as-

sess existing infrastructure.

They worked together to map their current facilities and identify future needs using social and resource mapping, visually representing their findings on chart paper.

The Village Action Plan for Sumchinum Village outlined the need for improved infrastructure, including street solar light-

ing, transformer upgrades, borewells for water supply, an SHG office, a Village Authority office, a waiting shed, black-topped roads, and public toilets. Meanwhile, the plan for Muallum Village proposed setting up library centres, a primary health centre, a fire station, borewells, pucca drainage systems, street solar lights, water tanks, MI dams, public toilets, and a marketing shed.

Samuel T. Lhungdim, SDO/BDO of the Singnat Sub-Division in Churachandpur, supervised the entire program.

The event saw participation from Rex Lengen, SDC of the Singnat SDO Office, along with staff from multiple government departments such as PHED, Forest, Medical, ICDS-SW, Education, SHG (MSRLM), PWD, Agriculture, and CAF & PD. Also in attendance were block master trainers, Adi Sathis, Adi Sahiyogis, social workers, village chiefs, members of Village Authorities, and nearly 200 gram sabha members.

The initiative emphasized grassroots participation, transparency, and community-led planning, highlighting the government's commitment to transforming tribal villages through collaborative and merit-based development efforts.

**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>  
E: [Seforsuccess@gmail.com](mailto:Seforsuccess@gmail.com)

9330830083 [www.northeastintegrationrally.in](http://www.northeastintegrationrally.in)

## SC seeks Centre, Ladakh UT's response



NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Centre and the Union Territory of Ladakh on a writ petition filed by activist Sonam Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali J Angmo, challenging his detention under the National Security Act and seeking his immediate release.

A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria, however, refused to pass any order on her plea for providing her the grounds of detention and posted the matter for hearing on October 14. "Something has been done for now," the bench said.

Wangchuk was detained under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) on September 26, two days after violent protests demanding statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh left four people dead and 90 injured in the Union territory. The Government had accused him of inciting the violence.

The NSA empowers the Centre and States to detain individuals to prevent them from acting in a manner "prejudicial to the defence of India".

The maximum detention period is 12 months, though it can be revoked earlier.

Wangchuk is lodged in Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Wangchuk's wife, sought directions from the apex court that the grounds of detention "should be served on her".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, however, submitted that the grounds of detention have been "served on the detenu (Wangchuk)".

Mehta stated that there is no legal requirement for the grounds of detention to be given to the wife.

Sibal pressed for an interim order for the supply of grounds, saying the detention order cannot be challenged without a copy.

Justice Kumar then said, "At this stage, we will not say anything."

The bench, however, noted the submission of the Solicitor General that he would examine the feasibility of supplying the grounds of detention.

Mehta alleged that the petitioner was trying to create a "hype" with an "emotive issue" that Wangchuk was denied

medical relief and meetings with his wife.

The top court directed the authorities to meet Wangchuk's medical requirements permissible under the prison rules.

Filing the habeas corpus (bring the person) writ, the spouse of the detained activist sought urgent listing of the plea and a direction to the Ladakh administration to "produce Sonam Wangchuk before this court forthwith".

In her plea filed through senior lawyer Vivek Tankha and lawyer Sarvam Ritam Khare, Angmo has also questioned the decision to invoke the NSA against Wangchuk, which allows detention without trial for up to 12 months.

It also sought immediate access to the detenu, and quashing of the preventive detention order.

The plea, which named the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ladakh UT administration, the Deputy Commissioner of Leh and the Jodhpur Jail Superintendent as parties, also sought a direction to them to "allow immediate access of the petitioner to her husband, both telephonic and in person".

The plea alleged that Wangchuk's detention was "illegal, arbitrary, and unconstitutional", violating the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 19, 21 and 22 of the Constitution.

"Wangchuk, who has been an internationally acclaimed innovator, environmentalist and social reformer, has always espoused Gandhian and peaceful methods to highlight the ecological and democratic concerns of Ladakh," it said.

## EC announces by-elections to Nagrota, Budgam Assembly seats on Nov 11, counting on Nov 14

JAMMU

The Election Commission of India (ECI) today announced by-elections to two Assembly constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir including Nagrota and Budgam on November 11 and counting on November 14. With this, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has come into force in the districts in which whole or any part of the Assembly seats going to polls is included.

By-elections to two seats of Jammu and Kashmir besides one seat each of Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Telangana, Punjab, Mizoram and Odisha were announced by Chief Election Commissioner Gynaesh Kumar at a press conference in New Delhi along with polls to Bihar Assembly.

Notification for by-polls to Nagrota and Budgam seats will be issued on October 13 while the candidates can file their nomination papers till October 20. Scrutiny will be held on October 22 and the candidates can withdraw their nomination papers till October 24.

Voting will be held on November 11 and counting on November 14. Entire election process will be completed on November 16.

Budgam seat was vacated by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while retaining Ganderbal after his victory in last year's Assembly elections from both constituencies while Nagrota seat fell vacant following demise of BJP stalwart Devender Singh Rana within days of his re-election.

By-elections to both the seats are being held after over a year. "The Model Code of Conduct



shall come into force with immediate effect in the districts in which the whole or any part of the Assembly constituency going to polls is included," the Election Commission said.

It said the Special Summary Revision for Nagrota and Budgam Assembly constituencies was completed with qualifying date as April 1, 2025 and final electoral rolls were published on May 5, 2025. However, the process of continuous updation of electoral rolls will continue till last date of filing nominations with respect to proximate qualifying date in respect to applications received till 10 days before last date of filing nominations.

The Commission will use EVMs and VVPATs in the by-elections in all polling stations. It said adequate numbers of

EVMs and VVPATs have been made available and all steps have been taken to ensure that the polls are conducted smoothly with the help of these machines.

"Candidates with criminal antecedents are required to publish information in this regard in newspapers and through television channels on three occasions during the campaign period. A political party that fields candidates with criminal antecedents is also required to publish information about criminal background of its candidates both on its website and also in newspapers and television channels on three occasions," the Commission said.

Jammu and Kashmir has 90-member Assembly but its strength had come down to 88 because of two vacancies. There

is also a provision for nomination of five MLAs including two women, two Kashmiri migrants (one of them a woman) and one PoJK refugee. These nominations haven't been made as yet.

Nagrota Assembly seat is stronghold of the BJP with the party winning it three times in last five elections. BJP's third time MP from Jammu seat Jugal Kishore Sharma won the seat in 2002 and 2008 Assembly polls. In 1996, NC's Ajatshatru Singh secured victory while in 2014, Devender Rana of the same party wrested seat from the BJP. In 2024, Rana won Nagrota seat as the BJP candidate.

In 2024, Rana emerged victorious in triangular fight defeating NC and Congress candidates by a huge margin of over 30,000 votes.

This time Nagrota is likely to witness a direct contest between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and National Conference-led alliance (NC) unless both NC and Congress decide to field their candidates. In 2024 elections, there was an alliance between NC and Congress. However, the pact was not applicable on some seats including Nagrota.

Budgam, on the other hand, is expected to see a triangular battle involving NC, the People's Democratic Party (PDP), and the People's Alliance for Change - a coalition comprising the People's Conference, People's Democratic Front, and Justice and Development Front (JDF) among others.

This month, Omar Abdullah Government will complete one year in the office.

## INTERNATIONAL

### 'We drank toilet water': Gaza flotilla activists allege torture in Israeli custody

TELAVIV

Activists from several countries detained by the Israeli military aboard the Global Sumud flotilla, which sought to break the illegal siege of Gaza, have alleged torture and mistreatment in Israeli custody.

A fleet of 44 vessels were headed for famine-struck Gaza with humanitarian assistance when the Israeli military violently intercepted the vessels and detained the activists. A total of nearly 450 activists were detained including Greta Thunberg and Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela.

The activists, including lawyers, journalists and medical professionals from across the globe were deported after being detained for several days in Israeli prisons.

Malaysian sisters and singers-actors Heliza Helmi and Hazwani Helmi alleged that they were forced to drink toilet water while in Israeli custody.

"Can you imagine we drank from the toilet water? Some people were very, very sick, but they (the Israelis) said: 'Are they dead? If not, then that's not my problem,'" Hazwani told Anadolu news agency after landing in Istanbul on Saturday. "They are very, very cruel people," she charged.

Heliza also alleged that Israel denied the activists food for several days.

"I ate on October 1. Today is my first meal... So for three days, I did not eat - only drank from the toilet," she said.

Italian journalist Lorenzo D'Agostino alleged that the Israeli military used dogs and weapons to intimidate the activists.

Speaking to the Associated Press on his arrival at Turkey's Istanbul Airport, D'Agostino said the Israeli



soldiers pointed the laser sights of their guns at prisoners "to scare" the activists. He also alleged that his belongings and money had been "stolen by the Israelis."

Similar allegations were raised by Yassine Lafram, the president of the Union of Islamic Communities in Italy, who landed at Milan Malpensa Airport after being deported from Israel.

"They even treated us violently, pointing weapons at us, and this is absolutely unacceptable for us in a country that considers itself democratic," he told the Corriere della Sera newspaper.

Another activist, Paolo De Montis, said he experienced "constant stress and humiliation" at the hands of the guards, who kept him in a prison van for hours with his hands secured by zip ties.

"You weren't allowed to look them in the face, always had to keep your head down and when I did look up, a man ... came and shook me and slapped me on the back of the head... They forced us to stay on our knees for four hours," Montis told Associated

Press.

Speaking to ANSA news agency at Rome's Fiumicino Airport on his return on Sunday, Italian activist Cesare Tofani said, "We were treated terribly... From the army, we moved on to the police. There was harassment."

The activists had earlier alleged mistreatment of Thunberg in Israeli custody, stating that she was "dragged by the hair," assaulted, and "forced to kiss the Israeli flag" in a bid to intimidate others. Thunberg, one of the high-profile members of the mission, has been accused by the Israel of having links with Palestinian group Hamas.

Meanwhile, Israel's far-right National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, on Monday said he was "proud" of the harsh treatment of the activists in the Israeli prison.

"I was proud that we treat the 'flotilla activists' as supporters of terrorism. Anyone who supports terrorism is a terrorist and deserves the conditions of terrorists," the minister said in a statement.

The minister, who was filmed taunting and repeatedly calling the activists terrorists after their detention by the Israeli military said he intended to give them a "feel of the Ketziot prison," so they don't come to Israel again.

"If any of them thought they would come here and receive a red carpet and trumpets - they were mistaken... They should get a good feel for the conditions in Ketziot prison and think twice before they approach Israel again," he said.

In a separate post on X, Ben-Gvir criticised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for deporting the activists, saying that they should have been kept in Israeli prisons "for a few months."

"The Prime Minister's decision to allow the terror supporters from the flotilla to return to their countries - its foundation is a mistake. I think they must be kept here in an Israeli prison for a few months, so they can smell the scent of the terrorists' wing," he said. "After all, it cannot be that the Prime Minister sends them back to their countries again and again and again - and this sending causes them to return again and again and again," he added.

By contrast, Israel's Foreign Ministry denied the allegations of mistreatment of the activists and claimed that their "legal rights" were fully upheld.

"Interestingly enough, Greta herself and other detainees refused to expedite their deportation and insisted on prolonging their stay in custody. Greta also did not complain to the Israeli authorities about any of these ludicrous and baseless allegations - because they never occurred," the ministry claimed.

### Trump to impose 25% tariffs on medium, heavy-duty trucks starting November 1



WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said Monday that a steep US tariff on imported heavy trucks would begin on November 1, postponing the date that he initially threatened to impose such duties.

"Beginning November 1st, 2025, all Medium and Heavy Duty Trucks coming into the United States from other Countries will be Tariffed at the Rate of 25%," Trump wrote in a post on his Truth Social site.

This is a monthlong delay from the October 1 start date he vowed in an earlier social media post unveiling the new duty.

The Trump administration launched a so-called Section 232 probe into imports of trucks earlier this year to determine their effects of national security, setting the stage for Trump's

announcement.

Trump has used such investigations, under the authority of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, to impose tariffs on various imported goods - in efforts to boost US manufacturing and punish countries that he says are taking advantage of his country.

Analysts, however, have noted that the impact of tariffs on heavy trucks depends on whether there are exemptions from such vehicles made in Mexico and Canada.

"The US sources 78 percent of heavy truck imports from Mexico and 15 percent from Canada," said Capital Economics economist Neil Shearing and Stephen Brown.

"A key question is whether there will be exemptions for USMCA-compliant products," they added in a note last month, referring to the

US-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement.

This is unclear for now, they said, flagging that product-specific tariffs - with the exemption of auto parts - do not necessarily contain exemptions for goods entering the United States under the North American trade pact.

"If there's no USMCA exemption, then Mexico will be most heavily affected by the large truck tariffs," they said.

Trump's sector-specific national security tariffs are seen as being on firmer legal ground than some of his other levies, which rely on emergency economic powers to target entire economies.

The latter tariffs have been challenged in court, with the Supreme Court set to hear arguments in the case next month.

## North East Integration Rally 2026: Peace, Progress, Prosperity, A March Toward a United Tomorrow



LT COL (DR.) ASHWANI KUMAR

The North East of India is not just a geographical frontier; it is the spiritual and cultural heart that completes the rhythm of Bharat. From the blue hills of Nagaland to the tea valleys of Assam, from the sacred peaks of Arunachal to the cultural tapestries of Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Sikkim, the region holds within it the ancient strength and modern aspiration of our nation.

The North East Integration Rally 2026, under the theme Peace, Progress, Prosperity, is a movement, not merely a motor rally. It is a symbol of connection between people, places, and purpose. It seeks to remind us that national integration is not achieved through infrastructure alone but through shared emotion, empathy, and engagement.

**Peace: The Foundation of Integration**

Peace in the North East is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the presence of trust. It is built when the voice of the people is heard, their traditions respected, and their youth empowered. The rally's journey through eight states and North Bengal becomes a moving dialogue, linking communities, local governance, security agencies, and the people in a spirit of cooperation.

In today's world, peace must be participatory. The North East, with its mosaic of ethnicities and faiths, teaches India the art of coexistence. The rally becomes a living testament to that lesson.

**Progress: The Pulse of a New North East**

The Government of India's Act East Policy envisions the North East as India's gateway to South-East Asia. However, the success of this vision depends on genuine integration, roads that connect markets, airports that connect opportunities, and digital corridors that connect minds.

Through its focus on Infrastructure, MSME, Tourism, and Entrepreneurship, the NE Integration Rally 2026 showcases the transformation already underway, bridges across the Brahmaputra, tunnels through the hills, and the silent revolution of startups emerging from villages once deemed remote.

Progress, however, must have a human face. The "5Es" Education, Employment, Employability, Entrepreneurship, and Emotional Intelligence are the real engines of sustainable growth. The rally's outreach to schools, colleges, and local youth networks carries this message deep into the grass-roots.

**Prosperity: The Promise of a Shared Future**

Prosperity is not measured merely in GDP; it is the glow of dignity in a farmer's eyes, the laughter of a schoolgirl with digital access, the pride of a young entrepreneur creating value from the soil of his homeland.

The North East Integration Rally thus celebrates Atmanirbharta self-reliance that springs from local wisdom. Agro-horticulture, adventure tourism, hydropower, and green energy all find a place in



this ecosystem of progress. The region's rich cultural diversity, its music, art, theatre, and cinema will shine as soft power that strengthens India's global image.

The month-long rally, from Kolkata to Guwahati, is both symbolic and strategic; it retraces the arteries of history while charting new routes of development. As the engines roar across valleys and high passes, they carry with them a larger message: "India's strength lies in her unity; her future lies in her North East."

**The Way Forward: From Vision to Action**

Integration is not an event; it is a continuous national effort. It requires partnership between government, industry, academia, and civil society. The KRC Foundation, through this initiative, bridges these worlds by blending policy thought with people's participation.

The way forward lies in:  
(i) Deepening infrastructure with inclusivity, ensuring local employment in every project.

(ii) Promoting local enterprise, MSMEs, eco-tourism, and crafts rooted in regional identity.

(iii) Strengthening climate resilience and disaster response through training, awareness, and innovation.

(iv) Nurturing youth leadership, through volunteerism, skill development, and civic engagement.

(v) Building emotional integration—celebrating festivals, heritage, and shared stories that bind.

The North East is not India's periphery; it is India's frontier of hope.

**Conclusion**  
As a soldier who has walked its misty trails and felt the warmth of its people, I believe the North East is the soul of India's resilience. The North East Integration Rally 2026 rekindles that spirit, uniting peace with purpose, progress with participation, and prosperity with pride.

May this rally become a journey of hearts as much as of highways.

May it inspire every citizen to look East, act East, and integrate India in its truest sense.

### SPACE FOR YOU ONLY

Rs. 150/- per day

#### NAME CHANGE

I, M. GunadhonSingha, 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 GunadhonSingha 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: info@krccfoundation.org 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:krctimes@gmail.com) / WP: 8721838313  
For Advertisement: [info@krccfoundation.org](mailto:info@krccfoundation.org) / WP: 9330830083  
For Subscription: [krctimes@gmail.com](mailto:krctimes@gmail.com) / WP: 8721838313  
Editor: [biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com](mailto:biswadeep.gupta@gmail.com) / WP: 8721838313

**Brain VISION**  
KRC Shaping Careers For a Successful Tomorrow

**Trust your gut feelings. You are being guided.**

